**Heat and Temperature**

Today in Science Class Mr. Smith taught us about the basics of heat and temperature. He did five demonstrations.

Foam and Stone I

In the first demonstration, he had you touch a piece of foam with one hand and a piece of marble with the other hand. The Marble felt really cold, and the foam felt warm. Then he told us that they were actually the same temperature (room temperature), and that the reason that they felt different is because our bodies can only sense how fast we lose and gain heat, and not how hot or cold things actually are. Marble (and stone in general) is a very good conductor, which means that they take away and transfer heat very well. The foam felt warm because it is a good insulator, which means that it doesn’t take on heat very well, but it keeps other things warm. This can be used for insulating houses.

Butt Illusion

In the second demonstration, he had you sit on the piece of foam. It felt warm, because it was a good insulator (see above paragraph).

Foam and Stone II

In the third demonstration, he had you sit half on the marble and half on the foam. If you are heat/cold sensitive, then your brain was getting different messages from either side of your body. It didn’t know what to do with the messages it was getting, so it sends a random message. For many people, the brain sends a numb feeling to your leg(s).

Hot Hands

In the fourth demonstration, he had you rub your hands fast on a piece of foam. After a few seconds, it felt like your hands were on fire!

Warm Wrists

In the fifth demonstration, he had you press your wrists together. They suddenly felt really hot, because they were getting heat from each other.

Things I learned:

* Robert Bunsen was a German teacher and the inventor of the Bunsen burner. He lived from 1811 to 1899.
* The Bunsen burner is a gas burner that is used in laboratories.
* Heat is a form of energy that makes induvidual molecules move.
* Temperature is the hotness or coldness of something which is expressed by a number. Temperature is displayed by thermometers.
* Humans can only sense how quickly or slowly they or lose heat, not what the actual temperature is.
* Humans have the best color vision of any animal alive.
* Our hearing is pretty good.
* We have a good sense of smell.
* We are absolutely terrible at sensing heat.
* Rattlesnakes can sense the heat of a mouse at night.
* The mouse doesn't bother hiding, because it thinks it's invisible since it is dark out.
* The snake sneaks up on the mouse and swallows it whole.

