

Tour for International Lab School Educators

From April 16th through 24th, the International Association of Laboratory Schools (IALS) launched the first ever tour of American laboratory schools for international educators. Dr. Carver and Mrs. Bird served on the planning committee, and Mrs. Bird participated in the whole event. Though only a few of the international participants could do the whole tour, we hosted a total of 13 educators from seven different schools in Canada, China, Japan, Korea, and the West Indies for part or all of the experience. The tour included the Hollingworth Preschool (Teachers College, Columbia) and The School (Columbia University), Bank Street School for Children (Bank Street College), Falk Laboratory School (University of Pittsburgh), the Children's School, and the Chicago Laboratory Schools (University of Chicago).



While at the Children's School, educators got an overview of our multifaceted mission from Dr. Carver, observed explorations of water in the preschool and insects in the kindergarten, heard about early childhood math research from Dr. Robert Siegler, toured the campus, shared lunchtime conversation while learning about one of the Chinese preschools, heard about our parent community involvement from Mrs. Rosenblum and one of our community partners, Becky Mercatoris, and heard about our professional development from Miss Hancock. Together with our Falk colleagues, we treated our visitors to a Pirates vs. Cubs baseball game.



Both Mrs. Bird and Mrs. Rosenblum traveled with the group to Chicago, where they heard a variety of presentations, learned more about the international lab schools, and even met the deputy secretary of education, John King. Mrs. Bird and Mrs. Rosenblum shared some of the secrets of our success in a presentation entitled, *"Where's the Chocolate? Ways to Foster a Healthy Mental Climate in a Laboratory School Setting"*.

