

ATION



Erin DeBono and Gabrielle Adams carefully examine a worm during class in a new Science Lab for elementary grades.

Our Lady of Sorrows' PTG sparks scientific exam of earthworms

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Our Lady of Sorrows Elementary School students have examined earthworms more closely than most.

During a recent science lab, they observed them through microscopes, gently prodded them and even picked up the squirming creatures.

The learning session at the Farmington parochial school was made possible by their new science lab. The lab was donated by the Parent Teacher Guild, after approaching the school with the idea for a science lab for elementary grades one-four.

Diane Ponagai, associate principal, said the lab is a

definite asset when it comes to learning.

"More learning is done when it's hands on," she said. "It makes it come alive, and it makes it real to them."

Parent Jan Loridas said she's thrilled with the lab, which comes complete with microscopes, work stations and a science cart with an overhead mirror so that children can better see experiments.

In addition to skeletons, there are also giant ear and heart models for the children to inspect and touch.

"They can follow with their little fingers the path of the blood vigorously pumping through the heart ... or sound waves traveling through the ear canal," said

Loridas.

Loridas said when attending the earthworm lab, she could see how it sparked scientific interest, while causing students' "squealing with delight or horror, I couldn't quite tell which one."

She said the focus was inspection, not dissection.

"The kids were continually reminded these are God's creatures and they are not to be injured in this lab experiment."

Ponagai said the school could not provide as many amenities without the PTG.

"We have no state funding," she said. "We have one major fund-raiser a year. So all the funding from that, the PTG uses to help our curriculum at school."