

# Johns Hopkins Presents Making Neuroscience Fun

A community outreach project to bring the wonders  
of Neuroscience to children of all ages

*"The students were so excited and so willing to share what they had learned. Also the brains (keepsakes) help them to remember a lot of the information. Parents also shared how wonderful and exciting it was for their children."*  
Shirley Dessesow,  
Teacher  
Lockerman Bundy  
Elementary School

**Making Neuroscience Fun (MNF)** is a community outreach program which brings age-appropriate interactive presentations about the brain to Baltimore City and County elementary and middle school students. This is a volunteer effort, funded by Johns Hopkins University, aimed at fostering appreciation for science in general and the importance of the brain and the nervous system in everyday life.

The program was created by Dr. Linda Gorman in 2003. Dr. Gorman is a Senior Lecturer for the Department of Psychological and Brain Sciences and Associate Director for the Undergraduate Neuroscience Program at the Johns Hopkins University. Both Dr. Gorman and the undergraduate neuroscience students at Johns Hopkins have been visiting Baltimore schools in the fall and spring of each academic year since 2003.

Making Neuroscience Fun just concluded its sixth year in existence. In 2008-2009 we visited 22 schools and 5905 students. This was our most successful year to date. We visit each school annually, and spend 30-45 minutes with each grade level, giving each student a keepsake item.

**Please contact us if you would like to schedule a school visit. We look forward to visiting your school!**

## Contact Information

**Linda Gorman, Ph.D.**

Director, Making Neuroscience Fun Community Outreach Program  
Senior Lecturer & Associate Director of Undergraduate Neuroscience  
Studies, The Johns Hopkins University

Phone: 410-516-6436

Email: [mnf@jhu.edu](mailto:mnf@jhu.edu)

Website: [www.makingneurosciencefun.org](http://www.makingneurosciencefun.org)

## Presentation Topics

### Pre-Kindergarten – Do I Really Have a Brain?

The brain is not something that people can see, so with this presentation we introduce children to the brain by looking at all that it does for us.

### Kindergarten - Be Nice to Your Brain

This is a very introductory presentation that describes how important the brain is and discusses some of the ways that we can take care of our brain.

### 1<sup>st</sup> grade - Stink Think and Fabulous Flavors

This is a presentation of the chemical senses, smell and taste. We discuss how the environment actually touches our nervous system so that we can taste and smell.

### 2<sup>nd</sup> grade - Brain Olympics

This is a presentation of the motor systems. We discuss how our movements make up the majority of our behaviors.

### 3<sup>rd</sup> grade - Your Hairy Senses

A play on the type of receptors, hair cells, which gives us information about sounds and the orientation of our bodies in space.

### 4<sup>th</sup> grade - Do You See What I See?

In this presentation we discuss how information from our eyes gets into our brains and also why the visual system is so easily fooled.

### 5<sup>th</sup> grade - The Behaving Brain

Everything that we see, do, hear, smell, think, etc. changes our nervous system. This presentation discusses the relationship between the brain and behavior.

### 6<sup>th</sup> grade - Brain Explorers: Your Functioning Nervous System

In this presentation we discuss how different functions are localized in different brain areas.

### 7<sup>th</sup> grade - Do Drugs Really Make You Happy?

In this presentation we discuss how recreational drugs affect the nervous system and why they have the potential to give our brain a disease - addiction.

### 8<sup>th</sup> grade - Brain Myths

There are a lot of things that people have heard about the brain and its function that are not necessary true. We look at some of the more popular Brain Myths and discuss why they are either "fact or fiction".

Drawing  
by Francis  
Scott Key  
Elementary  
School  
kindergarten  
student  
2009

