



The chemistry section of Future Science Leaders aimed to give the students a greater understanding of what the field of chemistry encompasses and show that it is not limited to laboratories and beakers. Chemistry is all around us, it is used in cooking, cleaning products, lighting matches, plant fertilizers, cosmetics, and batteries. Chemists are employed in a large variety of fields including manufacturing, pharmaceuticals, environmental sciences and technology development.



The FSL students got creative during the first week of chemistry and made some tie dye shirts using chemistry to make indigo

dye. They then showed off their fashionable new shirts the next week in the UBC Chemistry department, where they had the chance to do an experiment in a laboratory used by first year undergraduates, discovering that caffeine can be extracted as a white powder from tea. The students also developed their own chemistry stage show, working in small groups to develop a flashy, eye-catching demonstration with an underlying chemistry principle. This show was performed to a delighted audience of family, friends and peers. During the four weeks the students successfully used many different skills. They communicated to each other in small groups as well as to a large audience on stage. They developed practical skills by carrying out experiments and then practiced scientific writing by recording their results. However, hopefully and most importantly the students, volunteers, presenters and instructors had a lot of fun!

Special Guest



Radical Chemistry

Jay Wickenden: UBC Department of Chemistry PhD candidate

Many radical reactions characterized by an unpaired electron use highly toxic compounds, which are not safe for pharmaceutical purposes; my research seeks biologically benign variants of these toxic compounds.



FSL Fellow

Amanda Zimmerman

Ph.D. Candidate

UBC Department of Chemistry



I am a student at the University of British Columbia in the A1:U8 of chemistry. My research is focused on the development of new catalysts and studying the steps in catalytic cycles in order to better understand the mechanisms behind these catalysts. With this knowledge we can develop new catalysts to perform new reactions or improve upon known reactions.

FSL Fellow

Dr. Susan Vickers

PostDoc in Chemistry Education



I have a PhD in materials chemistry, and my graduate research involved designing new materials for engines powered by natural gas to break down pollutants before they enter the atmosphere. I am now a postdoctoral fellow studying chemistry education in science museums.