

# Praxis sets up portable planetarium as part of 25th anniversary celebrations

BY PEGGY REVELL ON JUNE 1, 2016.



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Taking a trip through the Milky Way and other galaxies — it's how the Praxis Science Outreach Society has kicked off celebrating its 25th anniversary this week.

"We've had so many students touched by science, by what we do, and I like to think they've gone on to great careers and just have that life-long passion for learning and science because of some of the things we give back to students in this community," said Patty Rooks, senior scientific consultant with Praxis.

As part of celebrations, Praxis brought in the "Astronomy Road Show" to Bow Island Monday and the Esplanade Tuesday, inviting students from local school divisions to be guided through various constellations, planets and outerspace adventures by an astronomer in a portable planetarium.

As well, Tuesday evening numerous volunteers, donors and community members were invited to the Esplanade to visit the planetarium and be thanked for their support through the years.

Praxis wouldn't have made it this long without these people, said Rooks.

Tuesday's star-gazing is just one of many 25th anniversary events planned for the year ahead. Others are in the preliminary planning stages, while beloved events like the annual Family Science Olympics in October and the Southeast Alberta Kiwanis Regional Science Fair will hopefully be "bigger and better than ever."

It's important for Praxis to continue working across southeast Alberta, said Rooks, to give back to children and families and "show them that science is involved in everyday life, and it affects us in some degree.

"I don't expect everyone to love (science) like I do, but appreciate it and understand it — and that's what we really want, to give back to people. And if we spark that passion in one child or one student, we've done our job."



Students from Vincent Massey School stare up in wonder at various constellations in the Astrodome Planetarium Tuesday set up at the Esplanade, as Praxis Science Outreach Society celebrates its 25th anniversary. —NEWS PHOTO PEGGY REVELL