

Magnolia students get look at medical field

Sixty Magnolia Junior High students will graduate this week from a program designed to interest young students in medical careers.

Hippocrates Circle is offered by Southern California Permanente to motivate under-represented students towards careers as physicians. The community outreach program, founded in 2000, involves field trips to Kaiser medical facilities and interactions with doctors.

The Magnolia students and their parents attended an orientation in January, in which Kaiser physicians shared how they became involved in medicine.

“The stories were just amazing. One doctor’s dad had polio. A lot of them were immigrants,” said Magnolia intervention counselor Evelyn Camarena, who coordinates Hippocrates Circle at the school.

A field trip to Kaiser Permanente Hospital in Ontario was held in February. Students visited different parts of the hospital, talking to employees. At least one student volunteered to have a cast applied to her arm while visiting orthopedics.

The Magnolia students and their parents also attended a Financial Aid/College Night offered by a representative from the University of California, Riverside. “She was very real with them on how competitive it is to get into medical school,” Ms. Camarena said about the college official. Good grades are a must, the students learned.

On Sunday, April 25, the Magnolia students were among approximately 700 junior high students attending a medical school fair held in Pasadena. One of the interactive exhibits had students dissecting a cow heart, Ms. Camarena said.

Since joining Hippocrates Circle, some of the Magnolia pupils have changed their ideas on what medical field they would like to pursue, the counselor said.

The graduation ceremony will be held 5:30 p.m. Wednesday, April 29 at Magnolia.

“I feel the kids are really proud to be in the program,” she said.

Coordinating the event for Kaiser Hospital in Ontario is Aldina Washington, project manager of administration/diversity and inclusion.