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The nationally broadcasted Electronic Field Trip, “The Science of Speed” hosted by a variety of students from Indianapolis and New Palestine, Indiana and Laurens, South Carolina was held on April 17th at the Indianapolis Motor Speedway. This one hour live broadcast had approximately 20 million registered viewers from all 50 states and four countries to learn about the physics of auto racing. The nine host students from Indiana and South Carolina enjoyed five days of hands-on, intensive education about racing physics and the engineering that goes into racecar driving. These intensive and fun activities were organized by Ball State University and lead up to the actual live broadcast. The student’s first stop on their road to the live program was to Sinden Racing on Gasoline Alley in Indiana. There, the students learned about the many components that make up a racecar and the environmentally friendly fuel, ethanol, which has replaced methanol. While at Sinden racing, L.J. Martin, from New Palestine Elementary, recorded the introduction aired before the live broadcast. That evening the students got a close encounter with racecar driving while visiting the Post Road Recreation Center to participate in Go Kart driving. Although one of the South Carolina students, Sheyanne Jones, didn’t exactly think it was a good idea to zoom around the track, she finally succumbed to the cheers of the spectators to get in a car and give it a try. Through the weekend the students visited and talked with experts at the Indianapolis Motor Speedway Museum. In addition, host students got to experience first hand what it feels like to actually drive a racecar by trying out a simulator. In this activity the students and teachers were very surprised at the amount of effort and strength that it takes to hold onto a racecar steering wheel and turn corners. Many students and most of the teachers came in last place on the simulator, but one hot dog driver from Raymond Park, Ricky Johnson, accomplished the feat of 3rd place against the computer. The two actual broadcasts on April 17th were very successful and fun for all involved. Drivers Scott Goodyear, Jeff Green and Antron Brown answered questions live during the program with the assistance of their student hosts. Through this partnership of sharing knowledge, all participating students and classrooms benefited from the Ball State Electronic Field Trip. The next journey for Ball State is to Alaska! To get more information on this Best Buy supported activity, visit Ball State’s website at: www.bsu.edu/eft
See Below pictures and captions...



Retired Indy car driver and ABC/ESPN announcer Scott Goodyear explains the inner workings of an Indy car to New Palestine Elementary student L.J. Martin during Ball State’s live Electronic Field Trip



Driver Antron Brown and student host Myranda Jackson coordinate a Downforce “Crew Chief Challenge” between students and Best Buy associates during the April 17th Electronic Field Trip