Beauty and science in a shot

Piera Ciceri

I.C. "Alighieri", Secondary School "Ottolini", Rescaldina (Mi),Italy (pieraciceri@gmail.com)

Taking pictures has become a daily action for young.

Photography is an essential component of many areas of science, has played a crucial role in the study of anatomy, botany, archeology, ... Still today it is a "scientific tool" in the school textbooks: pictures describe, make reality larger or smaller, faster or slower, show evidence and experimental results.

But a photograph has the ability to move, engage and inspire viewers.

That means that a photograph can build an emotional bridge between science and people.

People and students can get closer to science through beautiful, evocative and expressive shot.

In this project students are involved in taking pictures with a scientific and aesthetic content looking around, setting an experiment, watching nature, playing with light, point of wiew, colors and perspective.

They have to write a short text and a title that explains the scientific content, why and how they have taken the picture. Both description and title should let increase curiosity, could looks fun or stress artistic aspects.

Student show their shots in an official public event in Milan managed by a committee of science and photograph experts and in a local event to parents and local community.

"Shots of science" is a project promoted by the italian national association "Scienza under 18", the Physic Department of "Università degli Studi di Milano" and the "Museo di fotografia contemporanea" of Cinisello Balsamo (MI) that help students in discussing about scientific and artistic aspects of their shots.

This project contributes to develop digital skills (such as to manage digital images, to share documents, to learn about copyright and creative commons license), communication skills (such as to write a caption, public speaking, to use a picture to communicate), collaboration skills (such as to work with pairs, to respect scheduled times, to be positive in giving and taking into account suggestions) and artistic skills (to learn how to compose a good image, proportions, background, point of view, light, contrast, to be creative).