

Facial surgeon speaks to students at Ellington Middle School

BY WALLY ROBINSON
ReminderNews

Dr. Ryaz Ansari, an oral and maxillo-facial surgeon from the Rosenlicht & Ansari Oral & Facial Surgery Center in Manchester, was recently invited to speak to more than 100 seventh-graders at Ellington Middle School about the bones of the face.

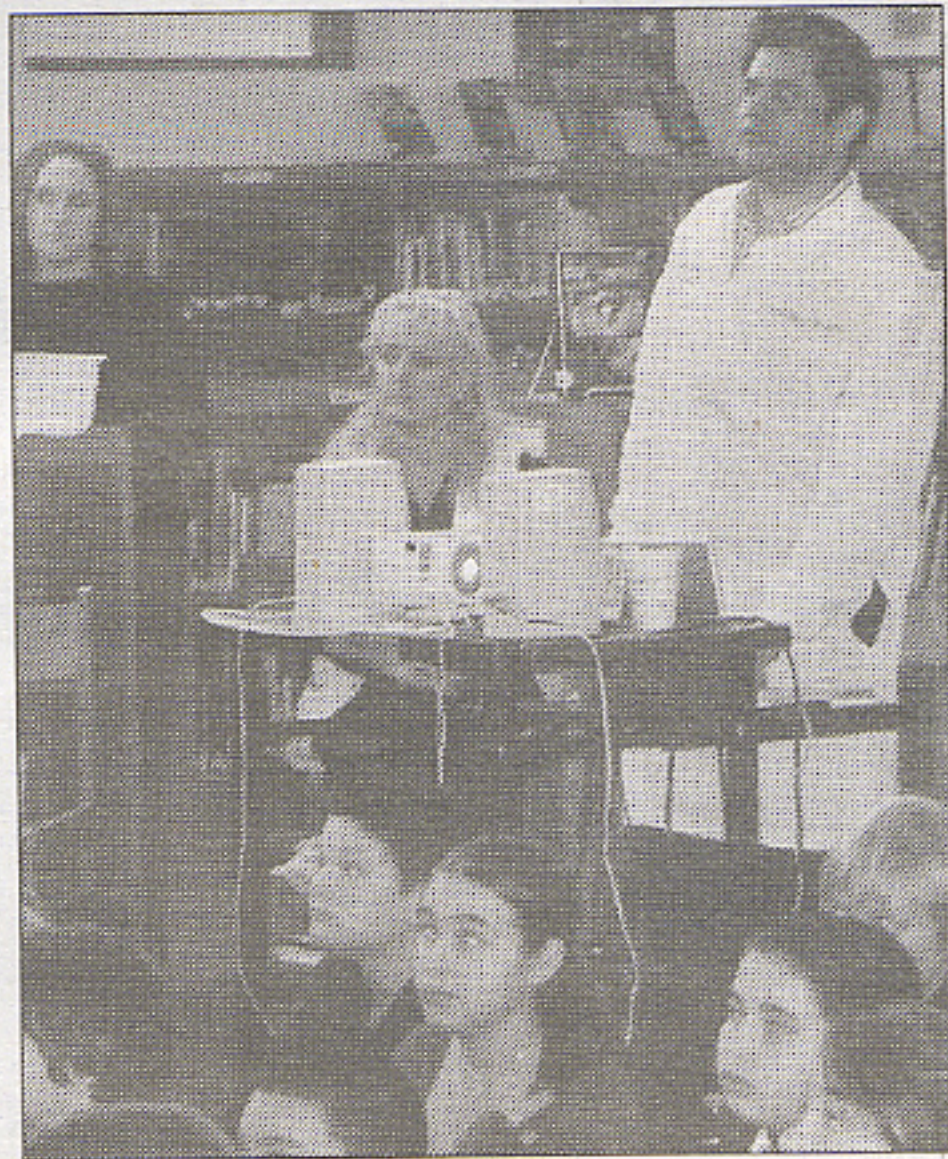
Surgical assistant Dana Elliott, whose son Nick attends the school, came up with the idea, as the students are currently taking classes on the human body and chemistry.

"How many of you have had broken facial bones?" asked Ansari during his Jan. 27 talk. Three or four hands went up. "Which facial bone is the most often broken?" he asked. Most of the students knew it was the nose – the face's leading edge.

"There are 14 separate bones in the face," Ansari said, "and all are designed to break easily to protect the cranium, which houses the brain. My partner, Dr. Joel Rosenlicht, and I have 20 years of experience repairing facial fractures. Some of the procedures are fairly simple, others are anything but."

Ansari gave a visual presentation to point out each of the 14 facial bones, which have only eight names, since six are found on both sides of the face. There are the two nasal bones, two cheek bones, or zygomatic bones, the maxilla or upper jawbone, the mandible or lower jawbone, the lacrimal bone, which houses the tear ducts, and the palatine bone, which is the roof of the mouth.

"Facial fractures can happen in any of life's pursuits, but most of our patients have been hurt playing sports, being in-



Dr. Ryaz Ansari gave a presentation at Ellington Middle School with surgical assistant Dana Elliott, whose son Nick is a student there. Photo by Wally Robinson.

involved in car crashes or fights," Ansari said. "That's why we strongly recommend wearing mouth guards in sports and seatbelts in vehicles and promote a no-fighting policy."

Next to the nose, the doctor said, the jaw is the next likeliest bone to be broken. "It, too, is hanging right out there," he said. "The usual procedure is to wire the jaw shut for a period of six to eight weeks to allow the bone to heal. The patient is on a liquid diet for that period and allowed only soft foods when the wires are removed."

Following the lecture, students were given tote bags which contained information kits, a toothbrush, toothpaste and floss.