On the third day, we explained that mineralogy is not only mineralogy. It is also chemistry and physics and mathematics and more. We started with mathematics and brought some paper crafts of different crystal systems. The task was to figure out how to make a 3-D model out of the paper and determine which mineral the distinct model could represent. In parallel, the “chemistry lab” was opened, and the children finished painting their colors from the previous day and gave the crystal paper models a perfect mineral color (Fig. 3).

Finally – the big presentation of the project in front of the school and the parents. On the afternoon of the third day, the children had to present their project as part of the garden party of the school. And they did so with great pride! They explained to everybody everything they had learned about minerals. They showed pictures and posters and made PowerPoint presentations, and they let the parents and other children tinker with a paper crystal system.

What was the result of this project? During the party, a lot of parents came up to us and thanked us for these three days. The children were totally fascinated and went home talking about nothing but minerals. The kids asked us to work at their school forever, and the school invited us to define more projects for the next school year. But the question is always about money. So, one school in Berlin is now infected with mineralogy fever. Let’s see how to feed and spread this fever in the future.

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The “Matériaux 2014” conference will be held in Montpellier in November 2014. The deadline for abstract submission is April 7, 2014. Information is available on the website www.materiaux2014.net/.

LES MÉTÉORITES 2 / DES MÉTÉORITES PRIMITIVES AU SYSTÈME SOLAIRE

In October 2013, the journal Le Regne Minéral (www.leregnemineral.fr) published its second special issue (100 pages in French) devoted to meteorites and aimed at a wide but scientifically oriented audience. While the first one dealt with differentiated meteorites, this new issue explores the world of chondrites and the small Solar System bodies from which they originate. It contains a general introduction and monographs on two special French meteorites (the Orgueil CI and the latest French fall, Draveil). A whole chapter is devoted to chondrite groups, their possible relationships and significance, and how to identify them. Individual chondritic components are then explored (chondrules, CAIs, matrix, presolar grains, metal), as well as parent-body transformations. The remaining chapters are devoted to the atmospheric phenomena associated with meteorite falls, to chondrite parent bodies and to the early Solar System. In addition to numerous diagrams and tables, the book is illustrated with ~150 new pictures of meteorites and meteorite sections. The authors of the twenty chapters are meteoritists, physicists and astrophysicists from various public research institutions and universities, mostly in France, but also in the US and Germany. This handsome and well-documented volume should prove a valuable resource for both students and colleagues working in related fields who wish to learn more about chondrites.

MINTEM 2014

The third school on the theme “Transmission Electron Microscopy in Mineralogy” organized by the SFMC, will be held at the University of Lille on 3–7 November 2014. The number of participants is limited to 12. The school will interest graduate students, post-docs and researchers. For more information and registration, go to the website http://umet.univ-lille1.fr/Animation/MinTem.php.