

Cedar Hill Independent School District
BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Meeting Date: October 6, 2007

Presented by: Horace Williams, Superintendent of Schools

Subject: Cedar Hill ISD Science Summer Camp

Information Item

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

Students in second through fourth grades attended a four week Science Summer Camp to extend their knowledge in field explorations. The students received instruction at the Cedar Ridge Preserve and Waterford Oaks Elementary. The instructional design of the program was centered on a hands-on science based approach in order for students to achieve key essential skills and knowledge in scientific observation, investigation, measurements, and identifying characteristics of living organisms and non-living organisms.

RECOMMENDATION:

This information has been provided to you for informational purposes only.

BOARD ACTION REQUIRED:

No action required.

POLICY AUTHORIZATION:

EHBC (Local)-Special Programs: Compensatory/Accelerated Services

CONTACT PERSON(S):

Dr. Homer Carter, Chief Academic Officer
Denalda Jones, Science Instructional Coordinator

ENCLOSURES:

See attachment.

Cedar Hill ISD Science Summer Camp 2007-2008

The Cedar Hill ISD Science Summer Camp provided eighty-four eager learners in grades 2-4 the opportunity to expand their learning through the use of hands-on investigations that incorporated scientific process skills, student collaboration, group presentations, and reflective journaling.

In partnership with Audubon Texas, the Science Summer Camp students spent one-fourth of their time on a rotation schedule for the field experience component that took place at the Cedar Ridge Preserve while the remaining time was spent in the classroom and science lab at Waterford Oaks elementary. The students in second grade attended the Preserve June 9-12, third grade students attended June 16-19, and fourth grade students attended June 30 through July 3. The program was designed to engage students with inquiry based learning through field experiences and hands-on laboratory experiments during a four week period. Three of the four weeks, students were at Waterford Oaks completing numerous FOSS (Full Option Science System) science investigations, digital scavenger hunts, and higher order thinking science related activities. During one of the four weeks, each grade level visited the Cedar Ridge Preserve to walk the trails and complete a variety of field investigations.

Students from the science summer camp were evaluated using a pre-assessment and a post assessment that included twenty questions each. The test questions were derived from The Texas Science Diagnostic System (TSDS).

The Program Facilitators were Carol Brazil, Chaval Amalbert, Amanda Jobe, Tracey Juhre, Stephanie Moss, and Carlotta Mitchell. The teachers who were assigned to work with the students at the Preserve received assistance from the Girl Scout troop during the second week of the camp. This same troop while at the Preserve collected samples. The samples were used by Professor Jennifer Baggett from Eastfield College during a biology lesson. Professor Baggett brought in an electron microscope in which the students from the Ninth Grade Center could view the samples as well as learn how to operate the microscope.