



Hands On Science

Newsletter
Aug 12, 2008
Volume 1
Issue 1

Paradise Valley Unified School District,
Linda Coyle K-12 Curriculum Specialist
Email: lcoyle@pvschools.net
Phone: (602) 449-2102 Office
HOSC (602) 449-2088

We Have a SCIENCE CENTER!!!

The History of the Hands On Science Center

Take one part dream, two parts ambition, and add a cup of hard work and you have the start of what it took to build the "Hands On Science" Center, sponsored by the Foundation for Public Education-Serving Paradise Valley. Curriculum Specialist Linda Coyle, along with Boulder Creek's Vicki Saldana, and full-time HOSC employees- Justin Beasley and Tory Thompson worked the entire summer to purchase, stock, assemble, and organize over 860 kits that go into the Center. It was an amazing task! With an official start date of July 1, total development and implementation of the Center was completed in just over four weeks!

Last spring, teachers were asked to submit their kit order for the '08-09 start of the school year. The first wave of 148 kits have been prepped and will be delivered to the schools starting on August 4, 2008. The Distribution Center will be delivering kits to the schools based on their weekly drop schedule. School name, teacher name, and kit name will

Please see [Science Center](#) on page 2

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

- 1 We Have a Science Center!
- 1 Summer Science Academies=Success
- 2 Cont. Science Center
- 3 Meet the HOSC Instructional Materials Managers
- 3 Cont. Summer Science Academies=Success

"Summer Science Academies helped teachers acquire a broad-based approach to teaching the kits. The program focused on all aspects of learning!"

Summer Science Academy=Success

By Diane McLeister (Wildfire) and Nancy Cawley (Whispering Wind)

"I recently attended the FOSS summer science academy in Phoenix and am writing to let you know how much I enjoyed the workshop. I feel it was a beneficial use of my time and I appreciate the work that went into organizing it. I especially enjoyed meeting with teachers from other districts. There is much to be gained from their expertise. The presenters all did a good job and I am now appreciating (loving) the FOSS program even more than I already was. Thank you and I hope to see more such academies in the future.

Diane McLeister
Wildfire Elementary School

"Just a note to tell you how fabulous the science academy was this summer. The instructors were great. I loved that the classes were grade

Please see [Summer Science Academy](#) on page

Science Center from page 1

be printed on the outside of the pallet.

The Hands On Science Center will organize and distribute hands-on materials to teachers in grades K-8. The 5000 sq. ft. Center provides science materials, kits, and laboratory supplies to facilitate inquiry-based instruction embedded in a variety of standards-based content. Justin and Tory will refurbish, inventory and redistribute the kits on a rotational basis. **Teachers will be able to request kits again beginning August 18th; they will arrive fully stocked and ready to be taught.**

“The goal of the Hands on Science Center is to provide teachers with inquiry-based science lessons in easy to use kits.”

The FOSS, STC, and SEPUP programs consist of two instructional kits per grade. The instructional time averages eight-twelve weeks per kit. The kits include a Teacher's Guide, 32 student texts, video support for the teacher, and materials for hands-on activities by all students.

The Board of the National Science Foundation recommends the science materials distributed by the Center. These programs integrate reading (non-fiction), writing, and math. Research has shown that test scores improve in all areas as a result of using this integrated approach to science instruction. English Second Language Learners are supported through the use of Word Walls and experiential learning. Materials are adaptable for the gifted. Homework pages are included. Parents and teachers can go to www.fossweb.com to find meaningful home activities.

Instruction emphasizes:

1. What's the big idea (concept)?
2. What should students be doing during instruction?
3. What are those embedded assessments? (Formative)
4. How do I know they really got it? (Summative)

The FOSS materials will also meet the criteria of the six Arizona Science Standard Strands:

- I. Science as Inquiry
- II. History and Nature of Science
- III. Science and Social Perspectives and Technology
- IV. Life Sciences
- V. Physical Sciences
- VI. Earth Sciences

New Kit orders will be taken starting August 18, 2008! Orders will be placed via our website (details to follow)



Meet the HOSC Instructional Materials Managers...

Starting July 1st, Justin Beasley-Lead Manager, and Tory Thompson-Asst., started as our 12 month employees at the HOSC. Justin came to us by way of San Diego State University where he played football and attended classes in Teacher Education. Tory is a graduate of North Canyon High School and attends classes at PV Community College. Our managers will be able to serve you starting at 7:00 a.m. in the morning, and until 4:30 p.m. in the afternoon. They are located in the warehouse, building A.

Justin will be responsible for managing our on-line kit orders, all kit inventory, and transport of products.

Tory will be responsible for the "critter delivery" and care, as well as assisting Justin in inventorying and refurbishing kits.

Their email addresses are: jubeasley@pvschools.net

And tothompson@pvschools.net

A copy of our "Policies and Procedures" will be attached to this newsletter and will detail all pertinent information about the Center and how to order kits.

Call or e-mail Justin and Tory for questions.

The second round of kit orders will be taken via our on-line Website starting August 18, 2008!

More details to follow....

Summer Science Academies=Success from page 1

level appropriate. I think we (Whispering Wind) did a great job of teaching the two kits to first grade. I learned some neat new ideas to use this year. We are going to make science journals and try to do a better job of having the kids record their observations and explain their answers in more detail."

Nancy Cawley-Whispering Wind Elementary

The Summer Science Academies were offered to all teachers K-8. They were taught in a three to four day intensive workshop format. All three kit companies brought in excellent trainers from Lawrence Hall of Science, UC Berkeley and SEPUP specialists. The Academies covered the instruction components of the kits, both formative and summative assessments and links to other content areas. Note booking and the writing process was highlighted along with inclusion of differentiated instruction.

A district facilitator's workshop was also held the second week in July. Participants learned how to develop and conduct professional development sessions for teachers, district-wide.

Justin Beasley moving kits around at the HOSC



*The Hands On Science Center is funded with the support of
"The Foundation for Public Education - Supporting Paradise Valley"*

Located in Building A, Distribution Center – 3012 E. Greenway Rd.

Hours of operation: 8 a.m.- 4:30 p.m. Monday-Friday

Phone (602) 449-2088