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Measures of Success is a community publication produced by the CISD Administrative Services Division to inform students, parents, and community members about Channelview Schools. This publication is also available as an E-newsletter. If you are interested in receiving this newsletter electronically, please visit www.channelview.isd.esc4.net to subscribe.

Measures of Success

March 2008 Issue 19

The Green Team

(Left to Right)- Third Row: Diego Hurtado, Arturo Garza, Krystal Kotel, Nancy Salinas, Eduardo Garcia, Mathew Conyers, Sponsor Lisa Dishongh
Second Row: Lyndsie Caudle, Jacob Moreno, Lillie Rodriguez, Cherise Childs, Erika Celis
First Row: Alejandra Vega, Savannah Brown, Caren Sanchez, Viviana Sanchez

Current environmental issues prompted Alice Johnson Junior High History teacher, Lisa Dishongh, to create a student group on her campus called the Green Team. The purpose of this group is to promote environmental consciousness among the staff and student body at AJJH, with the hope that some of that awareness spills over into the Channelview community. These students are concerned about the future of the environment and want to do something about it. They plan to have a tree sale to commemorate both Earth Day and Arbor Day; April 22nd and 25th, respectively. They also want to participate in future community clean-ups and other related activities. Currently, the Green Team is striving to recycle as much paper on campus as possible. They have adopted the motto, "Saving the Earth One Piece of Paper at a Time." The Green Team welcomes community contributions to the Abitibi recycling bin located at Alice Johnson Junior High.

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Fun at Camp Write-A-Long

A camper at McMullan Elementary School wrote by the light of his lantern.

McMullan fourth graders had a blast writing during the week of February 25th through February 29th. The fourth grade hallway was transformed into "Camp Write-A-Long" with tents, lanterns, and a multitude of camping equipment. This activitiy was designed to help them prepare for the Writing portion of the state assessment test scheduled for March 5th. Students gathered each morning on the stage for a PowerPoint presentation introduced a daily theme. The campers sang their camp song each morning before heading to their tents to begin their writing assignments. By the end of the week, each student had gone through the entire writing process five times. Students worked independently and collaboratively through pre-writing, rough draft, revising, editing, and the final draft. All students had the opportunity to revise and edit compositions written by others along with their own work. Students accomplished a great deal while enjoying a camp atmosphere – working in tents, eating s'mores, and sharing finished work products around the "camp fire" on the final day. The students worked hard and were ready to do great on test day!

Odyssey of the Mind

Students are acting out their theory on the extinction of dinosaurs.

Texas Odyssey is part of the Odyssey of the Mind which is an international educational program that provides creative problem-solving opportunities for students from kindergarten through college. They apply creativity to solve problems that range from building mechanical devices to presenting their own interpretation of literary classics. Ultimately, a team could qualify to compete against teams from all across the U.S. and 25 other countries in the World Competition.

The Odyssey of the Mind does not encourage teams to find the right answer, but instead encourages students to creatively develop a solution. There is no right answer. Teams are judged based on their ability to solve a long-term problem, their ability to solve a spontaneous problem, and their style or elaboration of their solution. Tracy White, GT Specialist, said, "The students alone come up with a way to solve different problems. This program is specifically lead by students with the teacher only being involved as a facilitator and organizer of events." Students gain skills like teamwork, problem-solving, creative thinking, and even budgeting. Teams must stay within a preset budget when developing props for their solution.

Tracy White began an Odyssey of the Mind team at Cobb Elementary School last year, and they performed exceptionally well against established teams from other districts. This year teams from Schochler and McMullan joined the veteran team from Cobb at competition. Team A from Cobb Elementary School and Team A from McMullan Elementary School won first in the Regional Competition on Saturday, March 1st, and will both advance to the State level. Team B from McMullan placed 2nd, Team Schochler placed 2nd, and Team B from Cobb placed 3rd in their divisions. Tracy White conveyed, "I hope we continue to add teams each year to make CISD a dominant force in the Odyssey of the Mind competition."

Working Together for Academic Success