



JOLENE GUZMAN/Itemizer-Observer
Oregon State University student Sara Black shows Oakdale Heights first-grader Gabe Decker, center, his fingerprint, which he is examining closely with a magnifying glass.

Science: Demonstrations provide hands-on learning

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"We want kids excited about science and have the understanding that science is something you do, not something you read about," Haak said.

It didn't take much to convince Oakdale third-grader Ariana Bobeda of the fun that could be had with science. She and her younger sister, Addison, spent a lot of time at the booth that looked as though it featured a witch's cauldron. Actually, the steam bubbling out of the glass jar was the combination of dry ice and warm water.

The girls — and many other interested students — filled plastic cups with the

steam, which looked like dense fog, and watched with amazement as it evaporated before their eyes.

When asked what her favorite booth at the event was, it didn't take Ariana long to answer.

"I like this one," she said, pointing to the frothing jar and then explaining the reaction. "It's a huge bubble of steam. ... It's carbon dioxide."

Ariana said she's thinking about being a scientist when she grows up, saying, "I want to experiment with water, make it fizz and bubble."

"I love science," she continued. "You get to experiment and do cool stuff."

Oakdale Heights Principal

Caleb Harris said a parent of a student, Marita Barth, a chemistry instructor at OSU, suggested and helped coordinate bringing the event to Dallas.

"This is one of the areas, because of time constraints, that we don't have the opportunity to do as much," Harris said. "With this, we can invest time back into it."

Barth said the kid-friendly experiments — some of which, like the fingerprinting booth she hosted, were delightfully messy — served as a great introduction to science.

"They think things are cool and that is a good start," she said. "That's how kids get into science."

Whitworth teacher is honored

Itemizer-Observer staff report

DALLAS—Lynden Jones, a fourth-grade teacher at Whitworth Elementary School in Dallas, was presented with the Dallas Distinguished Educator Award for January on Friday.

Jones was nominated by Jeff and Jaime Hevener, parents of a student in her class.

"Words cannot describe how

much it has meant to us as parents for a teacher to care so much about our child," Jaime said. "She has greatly impacted our child's life."

Her son added: "Mrs. Jones is pretty awesome."

The Distinguished Educator Program recognizes "excellence in teaching and learning" in Dallas School District schools.



Jones

Central School District seeks survey feedback

By Emily Mentzer
The Itemizer-Observer

INDEPENDENCE — Central School District wants to know what you think about how it communicates and where you get your information about the district.

To investigate how to better improve communication and communication, Jill Love, who is a private contractor in marketing and communication, was hired on a six-month contract to survey the community and district employees.

"I will focus on improving communication both internally within the district as well as externally to parents, businesses and the community," Love said.

Communication is key, said Superintendent Buzz Brazeau.

"It's not necessarily some-

thing we feel we've done as good a job at lately, and we want to get better," he said.

The first steps in reaching out include a survey — available both online and in paper format. The paper surveys are available at each school building and at both Independence and Monmouth public libraries.

Love hopes the survey will reveal how district employees, students and the community view Central Schools, what they see as its strengths and weaknesses, and how they get their information.

"I will analyze (the results) for themes and a clear picture of how Central School District is perceived internally as well as externally," Love said.

The information then will be taken to the board to decide how to use it, Brazeau

said.

The contract with Love is capped at \$20,000 and charged on an hourly basis. Afterward, the cost will depend on what steps the district takes to improve communication, such as a new website.

A new website would need to be maintained, which also would cost money, Brazeau said.

"We'll have to make decisions," he said. "It's budget time, so it's the perfect time to do it."

The survey is 18 questions in both English and Spanish. Including identifying information such as name and phone number is optional.

Take the online survey at: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/13JCommunication>.

Dallas superintendent search committee appointed by board

By Jolene Guzman
The Itemizer-Observer

DALLAS — The committee charged with narrowing the field of Dallas school superintendent applicants will be getting to work soon.

The Dallas School Board approved the list of committee members, 27 in all, representing district administrators, teachers, classified staff, parents and community members, city officials and business leaders.

Community members on the committee include: Dallas Police Chief Tom Simpson; George Fisher, representing Dallas Rotary Club; Brittney Rettler-Thomas and Bob Brannigan, representing the Dallas Area Chamber of Commerce; Mike Holland; Angela Munkers; Marita Barth; Dallas City Councilor Jim Fairchild; Clinton Branum,

representing Rotary; and Brent DeMoe, Polk County's Family & Community Outreach manager.

The screening committee will meet Feb. 11 at 6:30 p.m. for training and to begin screening applicant resumes with the objective determining which candidates should be scheduled for interviews.

A potentially lengthy process, the committee also is scheduled to meet Feb. 12-13 from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. both days. If needed, committee members could meet Feb. 14, as well.

The school board will meet Feb. 16 to review the screening committee results and officially select those candidates to be invited for interviews.

If all goes according to plan, initial interviews and community meet-and-greets with finalists will be

conducted in February and early March, with the district possibly naming its next superintendent in March. The new superintendent will begin July 1.

In other business on Monday, the Dallas School Board:

- Learned that implementing a full-day kindergarten program during the 2015-16 school year would only cost an additional \$4,000, most of which would be in equipment and supplies costs. That figure is assuming no substantial increase in enrollment. Nine classrooms between Oakdale Heights and Lyle elementary schools would be needed to accommodate moving to a full-day schedule, if the board decided to go that route. If enrollment stays steady, class sizes are estimated to be about 20 to 21 students.

Planning ahead

Matters to me

“ I worked in law enforcement for many years. I ate right, I was a runner... I thought I was as healthy as a guy could be at 59 years old. ”

—Wayne M., heart attack survivor

This is the face of heart disease. Surprised?

Wayne, a professional emergency planner, did not expect to have a heart attack.

February is National Heart Month, and there has never been a better time to learn about the causes, signs and symptoms of heart problems—before you experience them! Reserve your seat at one of the many heart-health events hosted by Salem Hospital this month by visiting salemhealth.org/heartmonth.

