

Power's science club leads to adventures, even travel to Florida

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Join a club and go to Walt Disney World. Well, that's not exactly the incentive for five parent chaperones and Power science teachers Sheila Gappy and Nancy Morris, who co-sponsored the YES Club.

"I had a great experience being with the kids outside of school, watching them interact," Gappy said, during the recent pizza party "graduation" that concluded the first year of the club. At the party, students also received certificates.

Morris described the Florida visit as educational and hands-on, "where they got to see scientists working." (Ironically, the Disney program also is known as YES, standing for the Youth Education Series.)

(\$700 per student) were paid for by the participants and their families, with the help of fund-raisers.

YES Club members were accompanied by five parent chaperones and Power science teachers Sheila Gappy and Nancy Morris, who co-sponsored the YES Club.

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Fun time learning

"I like science and I didn't just do it (sign up) because of Florida," said 12-year-old Elizabeth Ferriss, also in seventh grade. "I did it because I like science and labs and stuff."

Her mom, Andrea Ferriss, concurred with that statement.

"Elizabeth has expressed interest in being a veterinarian," Andrea said. "She's enjoyed animals since she was a toddler, and I thought this would be a good experience to bridge academic classroom learning with real-world science and careers."

The trip to Florida basically was the icing on the program cake, said Gappy. Students enjoyed a variety of hands-on, scientific activities much closer to home.

"We went to the woods and did some tracking of male bluebirds," she explained. "We did Internet research on endan-



Say Y.E.S.: Members of the Power Middle School Y.E.S. Club are as follows: front row from left, Elizabeth Ferriss, Joel Knight, Sam Kakos, Ryan Berndt, Adam Dubois and Erik Baker; middle row from left, Alison Mroz, Amy Dusek, Laura Kakos, Andrea D'Agostino, Radhika Upadhyaya, Mark Bullion, Nathan Walker; back row from left, faculty co-sponsor Nancy Morris, Shelby Galloway, Molly Carroll, Kristen Stahl, Alese Bagdol, Alexandra Butkovich; Elizabeth Whitfield, Aimeya Walimbe and Chris Clark.

gered species..."

Some of the youngsters at the year-ending pizza party talked about benefits of being in the YES Club.

"I've always liked science," said seventh-grader Nathan Walker, 12. "I think it's fun and really interesting. There are all different things you get to see."

Another seventh-grader, Joel Knight, 12, likes science because the subject "involves everything, it's not just about numbers."

Seventh-grader Amy Dusek, 13, said youngsters had a lot of fun in the club. "But you had to be organized and ready."

For 13-year-old seventh-grader Elizabeth Whitfield, being part of the YES Club might also lead to a career in veterinary medicine someday. "I like animals a lot, I'm thinking about a career in science."

Although the debut of the after-school club was deemed successful, both teachers said no decision has yet been made about continuing it into 2001-02. A survey of parents will be one of the factors in the decision, which could be made this spring.

YES kids

Other students participated in the first year of the Power YES

club (spellings supplied by the school): Alese Bagdol, Erik Baker, Ryan Berndt, Jessica Booth, Octavia Brown, Mark Bullion, Alexandra Butkovich, Molly Carroll, Chris Clark, Andrea D'Agostino, Adam Dubois, Shelby Galloway, Insiya Hasan, Chris Hult, Laura Kakos, Sam Kakos, Kelly Koenigskecht, Alison Mroz, Mona Shah, Kristen Stahl, Radhika Upadhyaya and Aimeya Walimbe.



Experimenting: Power Middle School students (clockwise, from front left) Jessica Booth, Alese Bagdol, Elizabeth Whitfield, Elizabeth Ferriss, Alexandra Butkovich and Octavia Brown work on an experiment at Walt Disney World's Island Explorer station.



Fun in Florida: A visit with an Epcot Center scientist was part of the trip for Power Middle School students (from left) Elizabeth Whitfield, Laura Kakos, Amy Dusek and Molly Carroll. The school's Young Environmental Scientists Club recently traveled to Florida for a combination of fun and hands-on learning.

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public relations department were there, and 56 children in grades K-2 loved it. Moreland and Ruff run basketball clinics and assemblies in schools throughout the metropolitan Detroit area.

"Each child had their own basketball and sat around the gym floor," Alameda Principal Helene Blackman said Wednesday. "They were dribbling, passing the ball back and forth to each other. They ended by shooting baskets. The kids

loved it and the parents who watched loved it too."

Piston T-shirts and certificates also were given to the youngsters.

Blackman said Tuesday's after-school clinic was the follow-up to an Alameda assembly in mid-January, when Moreland and Ruff talked about teamwork, getting along and being kind. They talked about how to get along.

"It's an example of the way a sports team encourages good

citizenship," the principal added.

Meanwhile, Alameda will be a Pistons Partner school on Friday, March 2, when the team takes on the Miami Heat. Blackman said all Alameda families are invited to attend the game, and from six to 10 youngsters will get to walk out onto the Palace floor prior to the contest. Blackman said the lucky kids will have their names drawn in a lottery.

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