



**"Fostering Educated and Involved Young People"™™**

**10200 Alta Vista Road, Keller, TX 76244 ★ 817-562-4957 ★ [www.educationinaction.org](http://www.educationinaction.org)**

Education in Action is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization dedicated to empowering young people to be informed and active leaders in their communities.

## Spring 2011 Newsletter

### From the Founders

Education in Action's 10<sup>th</sup> summer of Lone Star Leadership Academy programs kicks-off in just a few days. It's hard to believe 10 years have passed since the first students arrived at registration! That first year, 2002, we only offered the **Lone Star Leadership Academy** – Austin program for 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> graders. Since then we've added programs in Dallas/Fort Worth and Houston/Galveston. Hundreds of 4<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> graders now experience Texas and develop leadership skills in these programs each year. **One-Day Experiential Learning Programs** for Texas schools were added for the 2003-2004 school year. More than 10,000 students, educators and parents experienced Texas sites with us on these programs during this school year alone. The **Lone Star Youth Leadership Council** was added in 2003 and has provided Lone Star Leadership Academy alumni with a guided program to *exercise* their leadership skills. Alumni have created and led hundreds of service projects benefiting individuals and organizations locally and globally including 147 projects during the 2010-2011 school year.

Through the past 10 years we have had the opportunity to positively impact thousands of students, and in many instances, in ways we had not predicted. On this 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary, we are pleased to announce that Education in Action will fulfill its mission, **to empower young people to be informed and active leaders in their communities**, in yet another way, through the opening of a private school, the North Texas Leadership Academy.

#### North Texas Leadership Academy

The North Texas Leadership Academy will open in fall 2012 for students in Pre-K through 12<sup>th</sup> grade. The Academy, located at 10200 Alta Vista Drive in Keller, Texas, will provide an innovative and accelerated curriculum designed around each student's needs and interests. Leadership, experiential learning and community service will all be key curriculum components. **Holly Megan Thompson** will serve as Head of School and holds a Master of Education in Administration degree from Lamar University and a Bachelor of Science in Education degree from Texas Christian University. Holly Megan has eight years of experience working in public schools and has facilitated and directed Education in Action's Lone Star Leadership Academy programs since 2007. For more information or to receive an Academy application, email [info@ntxleadershipacademy.org](mailto:info@ntxleadershipacademy.org) or call 817-562-4957

Thank you for an incredible 10 years! We are thankful for the opportunity to have worked with so many outstanding students, educators and parents and look forward to fulfilling our mission for many more years to come!

  
**Jennifer Pasteur**  
Executive Director & Founder

  
**Monica Hayes,**  
Media Director & Founder



[www.Facebook.com/educationinaction](http://www.Facebook.com/educationinaction)



[www.Twitter.com/eiatexas](http://www.Twitter.com/eiatexas)

### Young leaders meet their legislators

Education in Action schedules appointments for every Lone Star Leadership Academy – Austin participant to visit the offices of their state legislators at the Texas State Capitol. To view pictures of the 2011 spring break students visiting their legislators, visit Education in Action on Facebook.



*Lone Star Leadership Academy - Austin participants Olivia Carter, Nathan Kong and Sandra Kong with Texas State Representative Lanham Lyne, Spring Break 2011.*

*"Thank you for rewarding good kids with good things. Too often these kids get overlooked for doing the right thing. As parents, your commitment to encouraging them and providing a safe and educational camp has been a Godsend for us. Keep up the great work!"*

*- Karey LeBlanc, Bastrop, TX*



Education in Action dedicates this newsletter to the memory of **Guinevere Doss**. Guinevere, a 6<sup>th</sup> grader at Redwater Middle School in Redwater, Texas, participated in the Lone Star Leadership Academy – Dallas/Fort Worth program during summer 2010 and had just completed her first school year on the Lone Star Youth Leadership Council. For her 2010-2011 service project, Guinevere collected \$3,000 worth of Box Tops to purchase new library and classroom books for Redwater Elementary School. She also participated in Education in Action's alumni leadership retreat this spring. Guinevere was a Girl Scout, in the school band and active in her church, Awanas and dance. The Education in Action staff remembers her as vivacious, interested in everyone and everything, always asking if there was something she could do to help, happy and able to make friends easily. We are honored that we had the opportunity to know this outstanding young leader. Guinevere is deeply missed by the Education in Action staff and our thoughts are with her family. Donations to the family can be made out and sent to Red River Federal Credit Union in the name of Amanda Doss.

## Lone Star Youth Leadership Council, Alumni Program



### Purpose

Lone Star Leadership Academy alumni are invited to participate in Education in Action's alumni organization, the Lone Star Youth Leadership Council, to continue their leadership development during the school year. The alumni program provides members with opportunities to exercise their leadership skills by requiring them to create and implement service projects in their schools or

communities. Online lessons throughout the school year include leadership skill-building activities to assist the students with their service projects. Members are also invited to return to Lone Star Leadership Academy programs in a leadership role as Youth Facilitators.



*Twenty-seven Lone Star Youth Leadership Council members attended a Leadership Retreat at Education in Action April 16-17, 2011.*

### 2010-2011 Lone Star Youth Leadership Council

An unprecedented 147 outstanding young Texans successfully completed the 2010-2011 Lone Star Youth Leadership Council program. A 2010-2011 Lone Star Youth Leadership Council newsletter highlighting these students' accomplishments is available at <http://www.eiatx.org/pdf/LSYLC%202011%20NL.pdf>. It includes the name of each honoree, their school and district, a description of their service project and the name of their project sponsor. Great work Council!

### Leadership Retreat

Twenty-seven Lone Star Youth Leadership Council members from across the state met for a leadership retreat at Education in Action in Keller, Texas April 16-17, 2011. **Dr. Peter DeLisle**, Director of the Posey Leadership Institute and Director of Leadership Studies at Austin College in Sherman, Texas, served as the keynote speaker and kicked-off the weekend by presenting the importance of commitment to leaders when setting and achieving goals. Participants also discussed the value of service learning and the service projects they created and led this school year. Participants completed a group service project over the weekend which included writing letters and sending pictures and snack items to a platoon of 30 soldiers in Afghanistan. In addition, those going on to serve as Youth Facilitators during summer 2011 Lone Star Leadership Academy programs attended a Youth Facilitator training session to prepare them to exercise leadership as mentors to younger students and assistants to the adult Facilitators.



*Keynote speaker,  
Dr. Peter DeLisle*

*Dear Ms. Markle,*

*Thank you so much for the outstanding leadership retreat! We have received the whole download from Jackson and are very pleased and impressed. Part of the process was just having Jackson fly solo to Dallas. He really enjoyed this adventure and it was a great confidence builder. I was concerned about him changing planes in Houston, and flying alone, so while Jackson was gaining more confidence, I was learning to let go a bit. It was a good experience for both of us. Monday morning Jackson gave a persuasive speech in his English class. His materials were at home, but he volunteered regardless, and he talked passionately about George Washington's American Interventionism. His teacher was very impressed and I can't help but think his confidence and success was a direct result of the weekend. Thank you and Ms. Richardson so much for all you do. Peter, my husband, says you are a saint! Once again, THANK YOU!!!*

*- Robin de Jong, Mission, Texas*

### Summer 2011 Youth Facilitators

This summer 34 Lone Star Youth Leadership Council members will return on Lone Star Leadership Academy programs as Youth Facilitators. These students will serve as mentors for summer 2011 Lone Star Leadership Academy participants and assist the program Facilitators. Education in Action looks forward to working with the following summer 2011 Youth Facilitators.

**Matteo Aloia**, Pearland ISD ★ **Josh Arey**, Garland ISD ★ **Mikayla Ballew**, Ector County ISD ★ **Jack Baumann**, Clear Creek ISD ★ **Ryan Bays**, Greenville ISD ★ **Charles Bimler**, North East ISD ★ **Hunter Bowen**, Grand Prairie ISD ★ **Courtney Cundall**, Westlake Academy ★ **Jackson de Jong**, South Texas ISD ★ **Susan Dembny**, Plano ISD ★ **Priya Desai**, Coppell ISD ★ **Truman Dowdy**, Tomball ISD ★ **Emily Evans**, Plainview ISD ★ **Phillip Gonzalez**, Round Rock ISD ★ **Errol Grannum**, South Texas ISD ★ **Andrew Hitscherich**, Lewisville ISD ★ **Shannon Kahlden**, Brazos ISD ★ **Tirthana Khedhar**, Keller ISD ★ **Kirby Lorig**, Lewisville ISD ★ **David Mahoney**, Weslaco ISD ★ **Sarah Meidel**, Conroe ISD ★ **Janelle Milam**, Grand Saline ISD ★ **Lindsey Morrison**, University of Oklahoma ★ **Kendall Palmer**, Clear Creek ISD ★ **Grace Robertson**, Eanes ISD ★ **Michael Roohy**, Plano ISD ★ **Anisse Sircar**, Westlake Academy ★ **Troy Thienpont**, Northside ISD ★ **Jeff Trimmer**, Grapevine-Colleyville ISD ★ **Kaylin White**, Comstock ISD ★ **Morgan Williams**, Dayton ISD ★ **Nick Winfield**, Clear Creek ISD ★ **Jesse Woodall**, St. Thomas' Episcopal School ★ **Ryan Zimmerman**, Clear Creek ISD.



## What we do...



### Lone Star Leadership Academy

Monday-Friday, residential programs offered during spring and summer break for outstanding Texas 4<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> graders. Participants travel to Dallas/Fort Worth, Austin or Houston/Galveston and spend a week visiting significant Texas sites related to what they are learning in school with a focus on leadership.

### Experiential Learning Day Programs

Day programs take all students in a grade level (3<sup>rd</sup>-5<sup>th</sup>), their teachers and parent chaperones on a one-day program to significant Texas sites to provide students with opportunities to *experience* what they are learning in their classrooms.



### Lone Star Youth Leadership Council

The Lone Star Youth Leadership Council alumni program provides Lone Star Leadership Academy graduates with opportunities to continue their leadership development during the school year. Members exercise leadership skills by creating, and leading at least two others in, a service project of their choosing.

## Carter Smith, Executive Director, Texas Parks and Wildlife, visits Lone Star Leadership Academy



The June 14-18, 2010 Lone Star Leadership Academy – Austin participants received a very special surprise when **Mr. Carter Smith**, Executive Director, Texas Parks and Wildlife, met them at the Bob Bullock Texas State History Museum to share information about his career and Texas Parks and Wildlife's mission: To manage and conserve the natural and cultural resources of Texas and to provide hunting, fishing and outdoor recreation opportunities for the use and enjoyment of present and future generations. Education in Action extends a sincere thank you to Texas Parks and Wildlife for its ongoing support of Education in Action's programs including Mr. Smith's visit, program curriculum and the Community Outdoor Outreach Program (CO-OP) Grant.



*Blaire Thorpe of Frisco ISD introduced the Texas Parks and Wildlife's Executive Director, Mr. Carter Smith, to her peers during a 2010 Lone Star Leadership Academy – Austin program.*

## Texas State Historical Association (TSHA) Essay Contest winner announced



Each year, Education in Action awards a scholarship to attend the Lone Star Leadership Academy to the winner of the TSHA's Annual Junior Historian Writing Contest's Lone Star Leadership in History category. The TSHA announced **Truman Dowdy**, an 8<sup>th</sup> grader at Tomball Junior High School in Tomball ISD, as this year's winner at the Junior Historians of Texas 2011 Annual Meeting and History Fair in Sugar Land, Texas on April 2<sup>nd</sup>. (Truman also happens to be a third year Lone Star Youth Leadership Council member and Lone Star Leadership Academy Dallas/Fort Worth and Austin alum.) Not only did Truman win his category, his paper also earned him second place overall! Truman's paper, "Joseph Bonnell: The Forgotten Texas Leader", presented how, in 1836, the only officer to ever serve in the Texas army and the United States Army at the same time single-handedly prevented an ambush on Sam Houston's army, allowing safe passage to San Jacinto where the Texas army won Texas its independence from Mexico. Truman is using his full scholarship to participate as a Youth Facilitator on a 2011 Lone Star Leadership Academy – Austin program. Congratulations, Truman!

## Texas Association for the Gifted and Talented (TAGT)

Thank you, TAGT, for awarding scholarships for gifted and talented students to participate in the Lone Star Leadership Academy again this year. TAGT Summer Scholarships are designed for gifted and talented students who wish to attend academic or artistic programs during the summer months. Congratulations to the nine 2011 TAGT Summer Scholarship recipients that will be attending the Lone Star Leadership Academy: **Sarah Beth Berry**, Cotton Center ISD; **Victoria Cardosa**, Socorro ISD; **Emily Evans**, Plainview ISD; **John Franklin**, Dallas ISD; **Josh Green**, Galveston ISD; **Christopher Hulburt**, Ysleta ISD; **Kalysta Kee**, Newcastle ISD; **Renee LeGros**, Coppell ISD; and **Nicholas Markle**, Wichita Falls ISD. We look forward to your participation in 2011 Lone Star Leadership Academy programs.



## Alumni Kudos

**Jenelle Milam**, 3<sup>rd</sup> year Lone Star Youth Leadership Council member, will participate in the Governor's Academy of Teaching Excellence (GATE), a three-week summer educational program for talented students interested in teaching careers. The program includes field trips, guest speakers, mentorship from exceptional educators and firsthand teaching experience in a summer program for elementary students. During the program, Jenelle will design a leadership project addressing an educational need in her school district.

**Sharon Li**, 2<sup>nd</sup> year Lone Star Youth Leadership Council member, was selected as a State Honoree for The Prudential Spirit of Community Awards Program and traveled to Washington D.C. in May to receive the honor.

**Kirby Lorig**, 2nd Year Lone Star Youth Leadership Council member, was honored by her school as a "Student of the Semester" on May 9th, 2011. Kirby's teacher nominated her for the award based on her 'accomplishments in a variety of different areas'.

*To everyone at EIA,*

*My son attended the DFW week during spring break and I wanted to let you all know just how wonderful the week was for him. He is a 6th grader in Amarillo and he has never gone to any kind of camp before. I admit, as much as I wanted him to go and experience what sounded like a wonderful opportunity, I was terrified of him being out of my sight for that long with people I didn't know. When we pulled up that morning to drop him off, I was looking for that one thing that might trigger that parental instinct that said, "This is not a good idea," and turn around and drive him all the way back home. But what I found when we got there was a group of professionals that were all incredible, friendly and genuine. I knew that instant that he was going to be in good hands during his week there and I had nothing to worry about. Each night we waited for the photos and were always thrilled to see him with the other kids, all with huge smiles on their faces. When we picked him up on Friday, he was full of stories about what a great time he had and all of the things he learned. We were thrilled! And I swear he even grew up a little that week. He's already a very mature child for his age, but he grew in such amazing ways that week that he seemed even a little bit older to me. If any parent is offered this opportunity for their child, I beg you to take advantage of it. Our son can't wait for next year when he will be able to attend again. He not only had a great time just seeing the sights every day, he learned so much about his state, history AND himself. Thank you for all of your hard work and dedication to our children.*

*Sincerely,*

*Ginger Rutledge, Amarillo, Texas*

### ***Summer 2011 Lone Star Leadership Academy staff***

Lone Star Leadership Academy programs are staffed by educators from across Texas. Each program's staff includes a Director, an Assistant Director and one Facilitator for every ten students. All Lone Star Leadership Academy Facilitators are educators. Summer 2011 Lone Star Leadership Academy Directors, Assistant Directors and Facilitators include:

**Shakirae Ajaga**, Union Cathedral Church  
**Dick Attaway**, Coppell ISD  
**Stephanie Babb**, Midlothian, TX  
**Jennifer Bell**, Mansfield ISD  
**James Briggs**, Birdville ISD  
**Rick Bronson**, Northeast ISD  
**Lynn Brown**, Mesquite ISD  
**Khalilah Clopton**, Spring ISD  
**Jim Copeland**, Tyler ISD  
**Jeff Dickeson**, Grapevine-Colleyville ISD  
**Keith Earley**, Fort Worth ISD  
**Kristi Enyart**, Irving ISD  
**Alexis Ferdinansen**, Lake Dallas ISD  
**Linda Fischer**, Mineral Wells ISD  
**Kimberly Fuller**, Breckenridge ISD  
**Beth Gensheimer**, Coppell ISD  
**Dawn Grey**, Lake Dallas ISD  
**Rebecca Hickman**, Keller ISD

**Kristen Hurdle**, Springfield, MO  
**Laura Isreal**, Keller ISD  
**Katherine Jenkins**, Carroll ISD  
**Earl Jones**, Irving ISD  
**John Kennedy**, Dallas ISD  
**Kristi Key**, Coppell ISD  
**Jennifer Kranzberg**, Keller ISD  
**Samantha LaHue**, Birdville ISD  
**Blake Lindsey**, Mansfield ISD  
**Billy Mitchell**, Azle ISD  
**Happy Modisette**, Burleson ISD  
**Paul Montreuil**, Eagle Mountain-Saginaw ISD  
**Leanna Nash**, Plano ISD  
**Chad Nuetzmann**, Channelview ISD  
**Arianne Patty**, Fort Worth, Grand Prairie & Mesquite ISDs  
**Robin Primrose**, Fort Worth, TX  
**Lorraine Ramos**, Grand Prairie ISD

**Jennifer Riley**, Crowley ISD  
**James Romanowski**, Conroe ISD  
**Sarah Romanowski**, Conroe ISD  
**Heather Rountree**, Hurst-Euless-Bedford ISD  
**Stephanie Ryon**, Coppell ISD  
**Rodney Shepherd**, Lancaster ISD  
**Elizabeth Soslow**, Richardson ISD  
**Rex Stephenson**, San Angelo ISD  
**Terri Stout**, Plano ISD  
**Heather Thompson**, Mineral Wells ISD  
**Holly Megan Thompson**, Birdville ISD  
**Wendy Ulrich**, Anna ISD  
**Stanley Walker**, Dallas ISD  
**Rafael Williams**, Coppell ISD  
**Jared Witt**, Haslet, TX  
**Carrie Zachry**, Burleson ISD

### ***Education in Action's Board of Educators continues to grow***

Members of Education in Action's Board of Educators serve as liaisons between Education in Action and schools. Members make information about Education in Action's programs available to students, parents and other educators in their districts, including nominating their outstanding students for participation in the Lone Star Leadership Academy, because they understand the benefits students receive by participating in experiential learning and leadership development programs. If you are an educator and would like to join, contact Education in Action. For a complete listing of all Board of Educators members, visit [www.educationinaction.org](http://www.educationinaction.org). Education in Action welcomes the following new Board of Educators members.

**Phyllis Abernathy**, Coronado-Escobar Elem., Edgewood ISD  
**Bea Alonso**, Kujawa Elem., Aldine ISD  
**Genevieve Bennetts**, Sam Jamison MS, Pearland ISD  
**Mary Ellen Cain**, Goliad Int., Big Spring ISD  
**Evelyn Cantu**, Stell MS, Brownsville ISD  
**Leah Corcoran**, Warren MS, Forney ISD  
**Lori Cox-Hall**, Club Estates Elem., Corpus Christi ISD  
**Cathryn Creel**, Central Office, Newcastle ISD  
**Missy Douglas**, Wally W. Watkins Elem., Wylie ISD  
**Joey Dyrud-Lange**, David Crockett MS., Fort Bend ISD  
**Cheryl Franklin**, J.N. Ervin Elem., Dallas ISD  
**Susan Gage**, P.E. Wallace MS, Mount Pleasant ISD

**Dawn Grey**, Shady Shores Elem., Lake Dallas ISD  
**Kristen Hurdle**, Springfield, MO  
**Katherine Jenkins**, Carroll ISD  
**Kassandra Stevenson**, Wells Elem., Wells ISD  
**Terri Stout**, Daffron Elem., Plano ISD  
**Nydia Tijenna**, Santa Maria Elem., Laredo ISD  
**Cynthia Wade**, Westwood Elem., Westwood ISD  
**Stanley Walker**, Dallas ISD  
**Dorothy Washington**, Dominion Academy Charter School, Houston, TX  
**Portia Wood**, Dunaway Elem., Waxahachie ISD

## 3<sup>rd</sup>-5<sup>th</sup> grade North Central Texas area educators:

### Schedule now to take your 2011-2012 classrooms on the road for a day!

Educators, take your classrooms on the road and let Education in Action do all the work. During Education in Action's TEKS-based Experiential Learning Day Programs, students experience what they are learning in the classroom during visits to significant Texas sites in Austin, Dallas, Fort Worth or Waco/Georgetown. Education in Action handles all details including round-trip charter bus transportation from your school, program curriculum and much more. Day programs are available for 3<sup>rd</sup>-5<sup>th</sup> grade classes across North Central Texas. **An informational brochure is available at <http://www.eiatx.org/pdf/Day%20Program%20Flier.pdf>.** Education in Action is now scheduling programs for the 2011-2012 school year. For more information or to request a program date for your school, visit [www.educationinaction.org](http://www.educationinaction.org) or contact **Stacy Rountree**, School Programs Director, at 817-562-4957, extension 103 or [srountree@educationinaction.org](mailto:srountree@educationinaction.org).

## Experiential Learning Day Programs



### 4<sup>th</sup> Grade Social Studies or 3<sup>rd</sup> Grade E/LA/R

**"Trails, Rails and Cowtown Tales"** participants travel to the Fort Worth Cultural District and the Fort Worth Stockyards to discover first-hand how Fort Worth developed its "Cowtown" identity. Participants then enjoy a ride on a vintage steam train along the famous Chisholm Trail.



### 4<sup>th</sup> Grade Social Studies

**"Proud to be Texan"** participants travel to Austin to explore the Bob Bullock Texas State History Museum and the Texas State Capitol. Students learn about Texas history and government with a focus on early explorers, the Texas Revolution and the legislative process.



### 5<sup>th</sup> Grade Science

Education in Action's **"Water Rocks"** program takes student scientists to the Cameron Park Zoo's Brazos River Country exhibit in Waco and Inner Space Cavern in Georgetown. Participants investigate the water cycle and wetland ecosystems, as well as the physical properties of minerals, rocks and soils.



### 5<sup>th</sup> Grade Social Studies

**"A Little Washington in Big D"** participants explore the three branches of government, Dallas style! Students participate in a mock trial, write a bill, visit the U.S. Bureau of Engraving and Printing and explore the life and legacy of John F. Kennedy at the Sixth Floor Museum.

*"I just wanted to let you know that we had an incredible trip yesterday. Randy was very professional and helpful along the way. We have really enjoyed working with you and EIA this year, and we look forward to doing it again next year! I am attaching a short article I wrote for our local paper and school website in case you would like to read it. Thanks again!" - Emily Felker, 4<sup>th</sup> grade teacher, McCall Elementary, Aledo ISD*

### McCall Elementary Students Visit State Capitol

Sixty-eight fourth-grade students watched history come alive as they toured the Texas State Capitol and The Bob Bullock Texas State History Museum during a recent field trip. The trip was coordinated by Education in Action of Keller, Texas. The learning began as soon as students stepped on the bus where they viewed a video of the excavation of La Salle's lost ship, *La Belle*. The bus ride was filled with games and activities as students reviewed their social studies curriculum in preparation for their experience in Austin.

Upon arriving, the first stop was the Texas State Capitol. Students met with Representative Phil King, and later were applauded by Representatives as Mr. King recognized them on the House floor. Students also observed proceedings from the Senate gallery and viewed paintings depicting Santa Anna's surrender and Davy Crockett and past governors' portraits in the rotunda.

At the Bob Bullock Museum, students recorded journals provided by Education in Action as they moved through the interactive exhibits. Students ended the tour of the museum with *"The Star of Destiny,"* where special effects and lighting made Texas history come to life.

As students began the journey home, they played a game of "Jeopardy" which covered material learned throughout the day. After such a successful trip, McCall fourth-grade teachers plan to take next year's fourth graders on this Texas history adventure!



McCall Elementary 4<sup>th</sup> graders at the Texas State Capitol, May 11, 2011.



## **Hill Elementary raises funds for “Water Rocks” program, 5<sup>th</sup> grade Science TAKS score “shoots up to 97%”**

Education in Action is pleased to share Hill Elementary School’s success story. The teachers learned about the “Water Rocks” experiential learning day program, they raised funds for their students to participate and their 5<sup>th</sup> graders’ Science TAKS scores improved. Thank you, Hill Elementary teachers, for sharing how you made this experience available to your students. Education in Action commends your above and beyond effort and passionate dedication to your students’ educations.

### **Hill Elementary School’s story, by Katie Newman, 5<sup>th</sup> grade coordinating teacher**

*Hill Elementary has had the privilege of working with our community, parents and students in what was a fantastic opportunity for all our 5<sup>th</sup> graders! Water Rocks was the best field trip EVER!*

*Our school is non-Title 1, which means we do not receive funding as Title 1 schools do. We had to raise all the funds to go on this field trip. We knew this could be a BIG mountain to climb, but we had the support of our wonderful principal, **Lloyd Day**, behind us 100%. He said, “If this is something you believe in, it will happen.”*

*As teachers, we were very excited and intrigued about the other schools’ science test scores improving so much as a direct result of this field trip. Our team of teachers did not want our students to miss out on this opportunity. We knew there was work to do! I began organizing fundraisers that our team, parents and students would participate in. I contacted local businesses such as El Chico, Spring Creek and Applebee’s. Our first fundraiser was selling GLOW candles. We held a parent meeting at the beginning of the year as we usually do, but at this meeting, we included all the information about our desire for our students to participate in “Water Rocks”. **Stacy Rountree**, Education in Action’s Day Programs Director, came and spoke to our parents as well. After the meeting we had immediate donations and we started our GLOW candle sales right away. Our students were SO excited about this field trip that they sold \$4,475 of candles for profit toward our goal. We knew we would get there for sure!*

*Our other fundraisers were equally as successful in spirit. Spring Creek generously allowed teachers to serve rolls and drinks to the patrons during the course of an evening and donated \$1,400 as a result of our efforts. We made \$850 at an Applebee’s pancake breakfast (so fun!) where we pre-sold tickets as well as at the door and helped seat and serve our patrons. We earned \$225 at El Chico by promoting our fundraiser and having restaurant patrons sign in. We got 10% of the night’s revenue. We also solicited our community for donations. We were generously given donations from Dr. Moody Alexander and the Pantego Lions Club as well as individual donations for a total of \$2,500.*

*What is the most exciting point to us, besides the fact that our students and families and community were totally behind us, is that our fundraising goal was met between September 28<sup>th</sup> and November 16<sup>th</sup> - in just under two months! We are proud to say we are the only non-Title 1 school in Arlington ISD that participated. We were very encouraged by our kids and their dedication and excitement about their education.*



**Hill Elementary teachers displayed their fundraising progress.**



**Hill Elementary 5<sup>th</sup> graders at the Cameron Park Zoo in Waco, February 25, 2011.**

*On February 25<sup>th</sup>, we all arrived at Hill at 6:00am for breakfast and departed on three chartered buses at 7:00am. We had non-stop educational activities the entire trip to Waco. Once we arrived at the Cameron Park Zoo, the Education in Action staff led us in a Food Chain activity and then took us through the Brazos River Exhibit. We enjoyed a tasty pizza lunch and boarded the buses for Georgetown where we toured Inner Space Cavern. When we arrived in Georgetown we went down into the cave for an hour tour. This was truly amazing! After the cave tour, the staff led the students in various investigations. We left Inner Space Cavern around 5:30pm, had dinner on the bus and headed home.*

***Our students walked away with a hands-on experience that will carry on with them throughout their educational careers. I am so happy to report that our Science TAKS score shot up to a 97% this year. We are thrilled with them and know that Education in Action had a big part in the students’ success.***

## **Educator raises funds for day program on [www.DonorsChoose.org](http://www.DonorsChoose.org)**

**Mrs. Rebecca Orsini**, a 4<sup>th</sup> grade teacher at Glen Couch Elementary, a Title 1 school in Garland ISD, utilized [www.DonorsChoose.org](http://www.DonorsChoose.org) to raise \$260 to put towards her school’s participation in the “Proud to be Texan” – Austin experiential learning day program this school year. DonorsChoose.org is an online charity that makes it easy for anyone to help students in need. Public school teachers post classroom project requests on [www.DonorsChoose.org](http://www.DonorsChoose.org), then, the public can browse project requests and give any amount to the one that inspires them. Way to go, Mrs. Orsini!