

Education Manager's Report

To: Board of Supervisors

Meeting: April 25th, 9:00 am

Updates:

I hope everyone is well and taking time for themselves, getting some fresh air, and enjoying conversations with their loved ones during this time. This is a hard adjustment, but the amazing support of collaboration that has been happening makes it a little bit brighter!

Grab and Go STEM Nature Based Lesson Collaborative:

Starting April 6th and into the remainder of the school year, I am partnering with several environmental educators across the state to get teachers printed and digital nature-based lessons that kids can do in their own backyards. We are producing lessons that are suitable for all grade levels and all ages. Some are able to drop off lessons at Grab and Go lunch times, however, Los Lunas and Belen school districts have requested digital copies with which I have been providing weekly. I did my first distribution on Friday, April 3rd and will be doing the second one on April 10th. Each week, teachers will receive two to three lessons. I also have been in contact with Julia and Clara from Valencia News Bulletin about this initiative. My hope is that with increased newspapers being delivered to households, the lessons can be added to the newspapers for printed hard copies. If anyone is interested in seeing these lessons or viewing our goals and objectives of the lessons, I would be happy to send more information on it.

Social Media and Website Updates:

I have been updating the Whitfield Education Programs Facebook page daily. The updates are all lessons, resources and fun daily outdoor activities that families can be doing during this time. Facebook has helped out by promoting the website to get others to "like" the page and enjoy the fun family activities! I also have been adding shared nature lessons from educators under the Education Programs section. I will be adding activities here weekly.

Virtual Earth Day Nature Lesson Video:

I have been talking with Facebook who still wants to help promote Earth Day in any way they can. I am creating a short, 20 minute pre recorded video script of a nature lesson that I will be doing at Whitfield. During the video, I will give frequent ideas for kids to do these same activities at home during this time. The video will be uploaded on Whitfield Education Programs Facebook page on Wednesday, April 22nd.

District Video and Friends of Whitfield:

I have been keeping in contact with the videographer during this time and have sent him several photos of Whitfield over the years to help him create a story. For now, he still plans on

working with us in 2020 when we are able to open our doors back up. I have been in contact with the Friends of Whitfield as they have suspended all meetings and interactions during this time until further notice. I have been sending them updates on the lessons I have made and what I have been working on so they are aware.

Dan Goodman Award Application:

I sent out another reminder to teachers, principles, staff members, students, and all community members that they can still fill out an application and send via mail to us by May 1st, the deadline for the 2020 award.

Environmental Education Fellowship Update:

Since February 14th, I have been part of a fellowship that is creating a systematic change in New Mexico to create equitable outdoor spaces for all kids. We have been having monthly meetings and updates as we create a systems changing model. I have been working with a smaller group of fellows that has been focused on the “urban spaces” and how providing environmental education opportunities can increase in urban areas. We also have created a video to help other organizations and individuals deal with this pandemic called “Words of Wisdom.” I can send the youtube link to any that is interested in viewing it.

Spring District Newsletter Update:

Staff members will be sending me their articles this week to put together a digital copy of our newsletter to our various groups of folks as well as on our website. The newsletter should be finished prior to this Board meeting and will include all our updates during this time and the important current and future programs and projects of the District.

Teacher Summit Planning:

The teacher summit planning has been going on monthly. We have changed the two dates of the summit to be July 8th and 9th of 2020. We also did not secure any grant funding for teacher stipends or any materials this year. We are hoping to get a total of 20 teachers to participate. The last meeting we had together was on March 23rd, where we were deciding if we would do a digital or in person workshop. We will meet again on April 21st via Zoom and make final decisions and continue to work on the content of the two day workshop. We will also begin advertising to teachers to participate in the workshop at the end of April.

Master Naturalist Planning for 2020 and Coronavirus Update:

We have a total of six students in the class. The class was originally supposed to begin on March 25th. Unfortunately, I have had to postpone Master Naturalist until further notice. The Advisory Board has not made a decision as to when the class should resume.

Earth Day Science Fiesta for 2020:

This event has been officially postponed until further notice. I am to still do a Science Fiesta in the Fall, but a date and time have not been discussed yet.

All the Best, Allison

Some of the fun over the last month before everything shut down!

