



# SEM UPDATE

Schoolwide Enrichment Model  
2008-2009

February 9, 2009

## 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Grade Enrichment Clusters

Laurel Mountain 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> graders participated in their first enrichment cluster meetings on Friday, January 23. These clusters will continue until March 13, with the Enrichment Cluster Showcase on March 27. This year our 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> graders chose from 16 different enrichment clusters:

- Happy Feet
- Voyage into a Volcano
- Sew What?
- Irons Chefs of LME
- Snippets of Cloth
- Flutter Friends
- Hocus Pocus!
- Fabulous Fable Theatre
- Clay Creations
- Fitness Fun
- SPOTLIGHT ON: KIDS with CHARACTER
- Hooked On Paint
- Remarkable Reptiles
- Brain Puzzlers
- Star Wars
- The Computer Connection

During class time, the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> grade students ranked their top four cluster choices. Mrs. Levitan took their preferences and entered the data into a spreadsheet which went to Eric Deal, a Laurel Mountain parent. Mr. Deal wrote a program to sort the students into clusters based on their preferences.

Just like with our 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> grade clusters, the program randomly assigns students to clusters, trying to give every child their first choice. When that is not possible, it then moves students into their second choice, then third, and finally fourth choice. The program also takes into account the number of students per cluster, so no more than 15 students are assigned to a cluster, keeping the facilitator-to-student ratio low.

155 students are in their 1<sup>st</sup> cluster choice, 58 are in their 2<sup>nd</sup> choice, 24 are in their 3<sup>rd</sup> choice and 8 are in their 4<sup>th</sup> choice. Even though this is not a perfect system, we feel it is the fairest way possible to sort the students. Using the program also allows us to track student choices throughout their years at LME.

Please look for the E-news updates which are sent periodically throughout the cluster meetings. Information on how to sign up to receive E-news is listed in the box below. Also, you should check out the enrichment bulletin board by the front office for pictures and summaries from our 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> grade enrichment clusters.

## 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> Grade Enrichment Cluster Showcase

On December 19, Laurel Mountain 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> grade students and facilitators participated in our first ever Enrichment Cluster Showcase. The showcase gave the students a chance to show off the products and services they worked on during the eight weeks of cluster meetings.

Prior to the showcase, the students in each cluster were responsible for creating a display, which were placed in the mini-gym and surrounding hallway. Fourth and 5<sup>th</sup> grade parents, Round Rock ISD administrators and Board Members,

### DO YOU GET E-NEWS?

E-news is a great way for Round Rock ISD and Laurel Mountain to communicate with you. News updates are sent straight to your email account with important information about what is going on in RRISD, at Laurel Mountain and even SEM updates. However, to enjoy this free service, you must go to the Round Rock ISD website and sign up. If you are not already receiving E-news updates, do the following to start your subscription:

1. Go to <http://www.roundrockisd.org/home/index.asp>
2. Click on "E-news", located at

along with the community members who volunteered their time presenting to the clusters, were invited to the showcase. We had a terrific turnout.

The children's displays varied from cluster to cluster:

- The CLAY CREATORZ had a beautiful display of their hand-made pottery.
- ENGINEERS OF TOMORROW were busy showing the crowd how their programmed Lego Mindstorm robots moved and functioned.
- FITNESS 101 proudly showed their instructional DVD they created and filmed.
- The DANCING LIONS 11 had two performances of the original dance piece.
- The SOLAR FERRARI JUNIORS showed spectators how light from an overhead projector could power their solar car models.
- The SCENE SCENE cluster had student written screenplays available to read and preview.
- The WHERE IS ZEEK THIS WEEK? cluster had a display showing all the countries where Zeek had traveled and sent recipes from.
- The LION PRIDE QUILTERS display had beautiful handmade quilts donated to The Linus Connection.
- The COOL KPAW COLLEAGUES had a display showing the different aspects of KPAW they worked on.
- The PUPPET MANIA cluster shared the puppets and skits they created for different grade level performances.
- The THEATRICAL LIONS GUILD, ALL STAR AD AGENCY, READ-A-THON ASSEMBLY and LEADERSHIP LIONS clusters all shared the products used during our Laurel Mountain Read-a-thon (January 26-February 6).
- The COMPUTER CONNECTION cluster shared the different websites and web pages students created.
- The KITCHEN CHEMISTRY displayed the making and selling of their "Cublce" ice-cream they sold after school during Marathon Kids.
- The ART FROM THE HEART cluster proudly showed all of the different art projects they worked on for others.
- The ANIMAL HOME BUILDERS ASSOCIATION showed the progress of the Chimney Swift Tower they built in the LME Wildlife Preserve.

Students, teacher and parents all agree that our first-ever Enrichment Cluster Showcase was a huge success. One enrichment cluster facilitator commented, "The showcase was fabulous. The students were so proud of their

work. You could hear it in their voices and see it on their faces." We look forward to our next Enrichment Cluster Showcase for 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> grade on March 27.

## Lion's Pride Quilters Want YOU!

Do you sew, knit or crochet? Would like to share your talents with our LME students *and* other children in need? Have we got a project for you!

We are interested in forming a Linus Connection group within our school bringing together with both adults and students to quilt, knit and crochet for the benefit of the Central Austin Linus Connection. It would give you a meeting place to interact with other adults who share your creative passions and it would give our students an outlet to practice their newly acquired textile art skills.

For more information contact Joan Marshall at 464-4389 or [Joan\\_Marshall@roundrockisd.org](mailto:Joan_Marshall@roundrockisd.org).

### Thank You to our Family and Community Enrichment Supporters

**Tamara Bell** of CARITAS, 4<sup>th</sup> grade E-slot presenter

**Robert Bellah**, Regional Recipe Specialist for Whole Foods Market and 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> grade enrichment cluster presenter

**Monica Campos-Araoz**, Laurel Mountain parent, 2<sup>nd</sup>/3<sup>rd</sup> grade enrichment cluster presenter

**Joanne Chen**, Westwood High School student, 4<sup>th</sup>/5<sup>th</sup> grade "We Flap" E-slot volunteer

**Beverly Chimene**, Westwood High School student, 4<sup>th</sup>/5<sup>th</sup> grade "We Flap" E-slot volunteer

**Devi Choudhury**, Laurel Mountain parent, 4<sup>th</sup>/5<sup>th</sup> grade "We Flap" E-slot volunteer

**Monica Deal**, Laurel Mountain parent, 2<sup>nd</sup>/3<sup>rd</sup> grade enrichment cluster co-facilitator

**Mithu Deb**, Potter and 2<sup>nd</sup>/3<sup>rd</sup> grade enrichment cluster presenter

**Denise Jimenez** of Meals on Wheels and More, 4<sup>th</sup> grade E-slot presenter

**Dr. Molly Ogorzoly**, 2<sup>nd</sup>/3<sup>rd</sup> grade enrichment cluster presenter

**Julien Oliver**, Westwood High School student, 4<sup>th</sup>/5<sup>th</sup> grade “We Flap” E-slot volunteer

**Rodney Rash**, Magician, 2<sup>nd</sup>/3<sup>rd</sup> grade enrichment cluster presenter

**Sandra Sanders** of Any Baby Can, 4<sup>th</sup> grade E-slot presenter

**Alisa South**, Reptile Specialist, 2<sup>nd</sup>/3<sup>rd</sup> grade enrichment cluster presenter

**Lori Snider**, Laurel Mountain parent, 2<sup>nd</sup>/3<sup>rd</sup> grade enrichment cluster volunteer

**Kellie Stevens**, Laurel Mountain parent, 5<sup>th</sup> grade Yearbook E-slot facilitator

**Chikki Venkat**, former Laurel Mountain parent, 4<sup>th</sup>/5<sup>th</sup> grade “We Flap” E-slot Facilitator

**Mandira Venkat**, Canyon Vista Middle School student, 4<sup>th</sup>/5<sup>th</sup> grade “We Flap” E-slot volunteer

**Priyanka Venkat**, Westwood High School student, 4<sup>th</sup>/5<sup>th</sup> grade “We Flap” E-slot volunteer

**Kailani Ward**, Laurel Mountain parent, 2<sup>nd</sup>/3<sup>rd</sup> grade enrichment cluster presenter

**Becca Wassmuth**, Laurel Mountain parent, 2<sup>nd</sup>/3<sup>rd</sup> grade enrichment cluster presenter

**Anne Webster**, Laurel Mountain parent, 5<sup>th</sup> grade Yearbook E-slot facilitator

**Joyce Willett** of The Joyce Willett Dance Studio, 2<sup>nd</sup>/3<sup>rd</sup> grade enrichment cluster presenter