

Kappa Delta Pi Convo Crossroads of Excellence 2011

Idea Swap

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Program Description: The students were involved in a project that uncovered how the brain learns by studying neuroscience. The goals of this project were to help students understand their unique learning strengths and to raise awareness for learning challenges. These students became leaders among their peers in understanding different learning challenges. With this knowledge, they have helped other students and contributed to a climate of learning diversity in our school. One of the goals of this project was to help students understand their unique learning strengths in an academic setting and real life setting. An awareness of how one learns helped the students work with their particular strengths in subjects in which they struggle to learn. Another goal was to raise awareness for learning challenges and this particular group of students became leaders among their peers as they helped other students and staff with this understanding.

This project was funded by the Port Aransas Educational Foundation. "The Port Aransas Education Foundation (PAEF) was founded in August 2006 to raise funds used to create exceptional and enriching educational experiences for the students in the Port Aransas Independent School District (PAISD). Our goals and those of our supporters do not include aspects of test results but rather involve making available experiences and opportunities that will enhance education for the students at PAISD. We encourage PAISD teachers to **think outside the test!**" (Taken from the web site <http://paisdfoundation.org/aboutus.html>)

This project promoted educational excellence in our district because when students discovered how they best learn they were more successful in class and were more confident in their feelings that they were able to learn. The students also participated in Brain Awareness Week which is a program of the Dana Alliance. This is a description of the Dana Alliance for Brain Initiatives, taken from the web site <http://www.dana.org/danaalliances/about/> The Dana Alliance for Brain Initiatives is a nonprofit organization of more than [300 leading neuroscientists](#), is committed to advancing public awareness about the progress and promise of brain research and to disseminating information on the brain in an understandable and accessible fashion. Also taken from the web site is a description of Brain Awareness Week. "**Brain Awareness Week (BAW) is the global campaign to increase public awareness of the progress and benefits of brain research...** Every March, BAW unites the efforts of partner organizations worldwide in a celebration of the brain for people of all ages."

Here are quotes from some of the students this year concerning their study funded by the PAEF.

"The brain is an incredible and complex thing. You think your brain is complex? Mine is more complex because I did a presentation using letters and symbols. It triggered different sensory in your mind. I learned that I could switch different parts of my mind to do different things. DS Did anyone know that Orlando Bloom is dyslexic? Well if anybody didn't here is a newsflash for you. He is! He struggled in many course because of dyslexia but he did embrace the arts. A lot of people struggle in school because of dyslexia but a lot of the teachers say that our brains are really a lot smarter and high tech and we have a better chance of doing a lot more. KB More kids need to be aware about dyslexia 'cause you they can look for the signs just incase and target tag, My project was to have people read the color words but the words were printed in another color. This put both parts of the brain in conflict this puts the left and right

hemisphere in conflict with each other, usually the brain looks to the word and not the color although the right hemisphere controls what comes in all at once like patterns and colors and the left controls what comes in parts at a time, sequence like words. TB Just because we are dyslexic doesn't mean we are stupid, we actually use more brain waves and functions in the frontal lobe we use right and left sides of the brain unlike normal brains that use only one part of the brain while comprehending I'm not saying other brains are stupid but we have to work hard to be where we have to be...it is a chance for a taste of life were the other students didn't have to work as hard to get or show forth a harder time in life because they won't know how to work hard. CR I learned we use a lot of different parts to our brain and we learn in different ways. LT"

"I of course liked the lunches. Our book study, it's awesome. I liked getting the book. It was fun to learn different things and to learn about dyslexia. Maybe we could have like a study group to learn about art, literature and music and dyslexia. Each of us could take turns being the group leader. We heard that Mr. Byrd is going to buy a class set of the book we got from PAEF and then all the other students could learn about their brain. We could help the students and the teachers with this. Although I would like for us to take a field trip to a neuroscience museum but I think it would be more useful if we used other money to buy MP3 players so we could download the information about learning and brains from the Internet and then we would have to have money to buy other books. Besides Ms. Cook said that there are some virtual neuroscience museums we could visit. I think we need to make books for the elementary students so they can learn what we have learned."

Here is a bibliography for resources to create this project with your students.

Web sites

Brainy Kids online

<http://www.dana.org/resources/brainykids/>

Brains Rule

<http://www.brainsrule.org/index.htm>

Neuroscience for Kids

<http://faculty.washington.edu/chudler/neurok.html>

The Dana Foundation Your gateway to information about the brain and brain research.

<http://www.dana.org/>

The Dana Alliance

<http://www.dana.org/danaalliances/>

To help you plan a Brain Awareness Week celebration.

<http://www.dana.org/brainweek/resources/>

Here are the reports of our Brain Awareness Week activities with photos on the Dana Alliance web site.

Report of Brain Awareness Week celebration 2011 and photos

<http://www.dana.org/brainweek/reports/list.aspx?country=US&usstate=TX>

Report of Brain Awareness Week celebration 2010 and photos

<http://www.dana.org/brainweek/reports/list.aspx?country=US&usstate=TX>

Report of the celebration 2009 and photos

<http://www.dana.org/brainweek/reports/list.aspx?country=US&usstate=TX>

Books include:

Welcome to Your Brain: Why You Lose Your Car Keys But Never Forget How to Drive and Other Puzzles of Everyday Life. Sandra Aamodt and Sam Wang. Bloomsbury, 2008 for each school library. This book was one book that helped bring our neuroscience study into everyday life.

The Mind That's Mine by Dr. Mel Levine

All Kinds of Minds by Dr. Mel Levine

This first photo shows students working on presentation pieces for Brain Awareness Week.

The second photo shows middle school students making a presentation to the elementary fifth grade class.





