



## **“AKA Science Club Outcome Report” Summer 2010**

Beginning on July 11, 2010 an AKA Science (All Kids Are Scientists) class was offered to 2<sup>nd</sup> through 4<sup>th</sup> grade children at the Reedville Apartments in Aloha. AKA Science was developed and supported by the Oregon Health Career Center. The eight week curriculum was taught by Youth Program Coordinator Amanda Schuft. The class taught at Reedville was an unused kit still in stock at the OHCC from a previous season.



Bienestar received the curriculum and supplies for a discounted price. Before teaching the class, Schuft participated in a general training at the OHCC offices in Wilsonville and also had previous experience teaching AKA Science classes. A seventh grade resident of Reedville Apartments, Lorena Alvarez, volunteered to help Schuft teach the class. She did an excellent job. It was a great experience for her and the children taking the class enjoyed her presence.

AKA Science classes are comprised of hands-on activities that are fun and exciting for the children participating. The curriculum for AKA Science is designed to keep the children involved in scientific fields as they grow older by demonstrating how interesting and fun science and observation can be. A.K.A. Science uses a curriculum consistent with national science standards and reinforces the Oregon science content standards and benchmarks. AKA Science is an effective example of informal education that not only helps students meet benchmarks, but helps them to see science as something other than an academic pursuit.

The class taught at Reedville was titled Sound and Motion. The experiments and activities taught the children about an array of ideas pertaining to movement and energy. Each class had a theme and began with a question to help the students recall their relevant knowledge. The classes then included multiple activities and experiments to help the students expand their understanding of the subject. The classes ended with a reflection question about what they had learned that day.

Throughout this class the students learned about simple machines we use everyday and the impact those machines have on our lives. They also learned how they could easily make one.

The class taught students about potential and kinetic energy and how they relate to one and other through the use of visual, hands-on, and fun activities. One activity we did to show how energy can be stored and used was to experiment with pullback racecars.



We then built our own wind-up toys. The Sound and Motion class also demonstrated that for every action there is an equal and opposite reaction, Newton's Third Law of Motion, by having the students make rocket pinwheels and rocket launchers. The class also covered the concepts of friction, static electricity, and balance.

AKA Science utilizes an informal approach to learning that does not involve reading from a text. After a group discussion, the students saw a scientific concept through an activity in which they participated. The young students were introduced to all these ideas and representations without being confused by a large amount of technical vocabulary. Even if they do not remember all definitions of the scientific concepts they were taught, they will be familiar with them when they begin learning about them in school.

Classes were held every Tuesday in the community room at Reedville Apartments.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Amanda Schuft

