



Homework Club Sunset Gardens Outcome Report

Term 3, 2010-2011 School Year

Background

The first year of the Homework Club at Sunset Gardens has come to a close. The club began in September 2010 in the Sunset Gardens Community Room located on 951 SE 13th Ave. Hillsboro, Oregon. Term 3 ran from March 29th to June 2nd and was held Tuesday and Thursday from 3:15-5:00 PM excluding holidays and other school breaks, and is available to all resident youth from Sunset Gardens, enrolled in grades 1-6. The students came from Lincoln Street Elementary, Witch Hazel Elementary, and W.L. Henry Elementary schools.

During the 2010-2011 school year, the club has been staffed by Program Coordinator Elena Barreto, and part-time staff member Debi Myers. The Sunset Gardens Homework Club depended greatly on outstanding volunteers like Carrie Miller. During this term the Sunset Gardens Homework Club also had two volunteers come as part of a PCC Service Learning Project for their Spanish class taught by Stephanie Yorba Zink: Adrianna Matiaco, and Maria Wagner. The PCC students completed the optional project by working at least 10 hours at the Sunset Gardens Homework Club, and giving a presentation about their experience at the Homework Club at the end of their term, however, each completed upwards of 15 hours. Zink will continue to give her Spanish students the option to volunteer with Bienestar to fulfill project requirements in the coming scholastic year. The volunteers at Sunset Gardens worked notably hard to make the program a success as almost all of the students increased their GPA this term. We had 18 at the end of the third term for the 2010-2011 school year. We continued giving the students healthy snacks, such as cheese and crackers, peanut butter sandwiches, and carrot sticks, as we await approval for the Child and Adult Care Food Program through the USDA to provide these healthy snacks.



We focused on ensuring the children complete their weekly school work assignments. At the Sunset Gardens Homework Club it was a rule that the students must bring their backpacks and homework. We were successful in making sure the children completed their school work at Homework Club. With consistent volunteers we were able to provide the students with more individualized attention with homework and reading as well as building relationships with them.

Bienestar staff members and volunteers circulated the room, assisting children who had questions and checking their work for accuracy. This allowed the volunteers to build relationships with more of the students rather than a select few each week. All staff and volunteers worked hard to make sure kids were able to comprehend what they were being asked to do.

If the students did not have homework they worked on worksheets we provided that were geared toward reviewing the materials the students had learned during the year. Each student had a folder where they could put their worksheets at the end of homework time if they were unfinished so they could continue working the next time they did not have homework. The use of flash cards for addition, subtraction, multiplication, and vocabulary were also used as a more hands on approach. The students enjoyed doing them and the group setting and repetition of these learning activities helped the students improve in these areas this term as well as increase their confidence among their peers.



Students arrived at 3:15 and washed their hands before sitting down and eating their snack for 15 minutes. During this time we would announce "Achiever of the Week," the student who was the most cooperative, and did all his or her homework and reading the previous week, among other announcements. At 3:30 students started working on their homework. After 30 minutes of homework time, there was 30 minutes of reading time. During reading time the

students could read one of the books they brought from school or a book provided by Bienestar. The students can take a book home if they see one they become interested in during reading time to help bolster their motivation to read. Students could read independently, with a partner, or with an adult. The volunteers and staff each sat with one or more students reading aloud or listening and coaching a student to further develop their reading skills. Our volunteer Carrie Miller brought a trained therapy service dog that the students could read to. The dog's presence was a great motivational tool for the students to stay focused and engaged on their tasks.

The last half hour is free time for the students and they were able to play an array of educational games that were provided. The students were also given the opportunity to make beaded bracelets with materials donated by Carrie Miller. Each month Debi Myers would provide different craft opportunities depending on the holiday that month. The students looked forward to making these crafts such as Easter bunnies and eggs, Mother's day gifts, and end of the year activities.



A variety of motivational tools were implemented to create more of a community in the Homework Club and to encourage the students to be more respectful and kind to the staff, volunteers, and each other. As a group, students could receive up to 4 pom-poms a day if everyone was respectful, cooperative, and did their work. Once the club received 30 pom-poms the students could vote on a party. This term the students had another ice-cream and game

party. The students can also receive "Kindness Tickets" for helping someone without being asked, like pick up trash or a game, help someone with homework, say "please" and

"thank you", or say something nice to someone. At the end of the month those who got a ticket get a prize.

This year we implemented a monthly newsletter for the parents of Homework Club. This is a way for the parents to have a better idea of what is going on in Homework Club, get reminders for upcoming events, and encouragement on how to continue to help their children outside of Homework Club.

We take a holistic approach to correcting and improving behavior and grades in the Homework Club. Since this was the first year of Homework Club at Sunset Gardens we invited all the parents at the beginning of the year for a brief meeting in to review the rules of Homework Club and ask them to help us encourage their children to follow the rules. During Spring break we sent home the Homework Club rules with the students for them to review them with their parents again and sign that they will follow the rules. We set up meetings with three parents discuss their child's behavior or concern for the child's grades. We encouraged the parents to make appointments with the teachers to talk about improving their child's grades, and offered to attend the parent/teacher meeting to translate. One parent did contact their child's teacher to further discuss ways to help their child and brought back information from the meeting so we could better help her child during Homework Club.



We had an end of the year party to celebrate the students' accomplishments of the year. The party was had a carnival theme in which the students could get their face painted, fish for a prize, play pin the beak on the parrot, guess the number of shells in a jar, and play penny toss. At the end we had cupcakes and the students got to take home a goody bag with candy, a book of their own, and a certificate of completion.

Attendance

There were 18 students enrolled in our Sunset Gardens Homework Club at the end of the third term of the 2010-2011 school year. Attendance was consistent with an average of 14 students. Four students would come to Homework Club after a tutoring program at their respective schools once or twice a week and two of the students began coming but slowly stopped coming towards the end of the year.

Grades Outcome: (see analysis on website for specific results)

The children submit their report cards at the conclusion of each term. We analyze them and check for improvement in individual subjects, overall GPA and homework grades. This term the collection of report cards was difficult because report cards were sent home after Homework Club had ended for the year. However, we collected report cards from all 18 students who were enrolled in Homework Club this term. We used the previous term as the base to measure student performance. As mentioned, improvement is monitored in individual subjects. We use "net improvement" to determine this in our analysis. For

example, if a student improved in 2 subjects but declined in 1, they would have a (+1) score under net improvement.

Term 3 had a great outcome with 83% of the students increasing their GPA and an average net improvement of 2.82. The group GPA increased dramatically this term from 2.04 to 2.34 with 15 students increasing their individual GPA, 2 lowering theirs, and one not receiving letter grades. All of the students who increased their GPA's, also had positive net improvement in subjects, one student improved in all eight of the subjects she is evaluated in. Five students improved their homework grade and three lowered theirs. Of the three students who decreased their homework grade, two of them still improved their GPA. The 2 students who lowered their GPA were the ones who attended Homework Club infrequently and therefore were not receiving support they needed.

The staff and volunteers worked together to improve the effectiveness of Homework Club. Every day volunteers and staff stayed after Homework Club to discuss and write notes about student progress and what improvements needed to be made. Each person who worked at this Homework Club was very dedicated to seeing the program and the children involved succeed. Finishing the first year of Homework Club at Sunset Gardens was a success. After great diligence and dedication to the Homework Club students we saw positive results with 83% of the students improving their GPA this term. We commend the students for their achievements and all those who helped make this term a success.



Sunset Gardens Homework Club 6/2/2011

Respectfully,

Elena Barreto
Program Coordinator