



## DES Science Lab Newsletter



October, 2009 Debra Heath, Science Lab Teacher  
Lab Theme: **The Year of...Science for Inquiring Minds!**  
DES Theme: **Riding the Waves of Student Success!**  
CISD Theme: **Dragons get Real! Live. Learn. Lead.**

<http://teacherweb.com/TX/DurhamElementary/ScienceLab-DebraHeath/>



**Pet Club** - Thanks to the Pet Club for taking such good care of the DES animals.



The Pet Club members and many others from DES joined in the Bird on the Run race at BJNC too. Check out future family fun dates at [www.bjnc.org](http://www.bjnc.org)



**Fossil Dig** – Thanks to Dr. Trey Fondon and his son, Kyle, for setting up the 4<sup>th</sup> grade fossil dig. There were 6 different types of digs for the students to experience.

Stephen Blomstrom wrote, “**Finding a Fossil** – After a long

period of time, I was growing tired of digging for that one fossil. I was thinking about taking that one giant skull to the lab. Digging is harder than I thought.

I was gently finding my way through the dark as midnight soil with my ruler. Then suddenly something caught my eye. It was as white as snow and smooth. I wondered what it was. I froze, stopped digging and took out my brush. Finally, I knew what it happened to be. It was a giant skull!

After all my hard work, I found what I was looking for. Slowly I took it out. You could just smell the soil. I heard nothing but the chatter of kids. “Dr. Fondon, Dr. Fondon, I found a fossil.” I cried! “Great job!” he cried back.

I finally knew how it felt to find a fossil.”



The students used the clues from the digs to solve the mystery of what happened over time. This is science learning at its BEST! Thank you, Dr. Fondon!

**Scientific Inquiry** – You will see evidence in the hallways as each grade level works through scientific inquiry principles. They:



- Plan and implement descriptive investigations: ask questions, formulate hypotheses, select and use equipment
- Collect information: observe and measure
- Analyze and interpret information to construct explanations from direct and indirect evidence
- Communicate valid conclusions
- Construct graphs, tables, maps, charts, to organize, examine, evaluate information

**Critical Thinking and Problem Solving Skills** – Students were learning about crystals in minerals. Here a student is creating a model of halite using Magnetics.



### Garden

#### Maintenance leads to Community Involvement –

Students are learning to care for the Wildscape Garden. These girls are “deadheading” some flowers for fall.

The seed

heads will be used by the Pet Club to create seed flowers for the Bob Jones Nature Center tree for wildlife.

Troop 4017 dehydrated fruit and made garland to put on the tree.

Parents, you are invited to bid on the tree at the Naturally Sweet event on November 7<sup>th</sup>. For more details: [www.bhnc.org](http://www.bhnc.org)



### Fall Festival Winner –

Congratulations Eric! Eric enjoyed an afternoon of LEGO Robotics.



