



Homework Club Montebello Outcome Report

Term 3, 2010-2011 School Year

Background

Homework Club has been operating at Montebello apartments since September 2008. Term 3 ran from March 28th to June 1st at the Montebello Community Room located on 220 SE 12th Ave. Hillsboro, Oregon, Monday and Wednesday from 3:00-4:45 PM excluding holidays and other school breaks. The club is available to all resident youth from Montebello and Sierra West, enrolled in grades 1-6. The students come from Lincoln Street Elementary and W. Verne McKinney 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 Montebello Homework Club depended greatly on outstanding volunteers like Carrie Miller. During this term the Montebello Homework Club also had two volunteers come as part of a PCC Service Learning Project for their Spanish class taught by Stephanie Yorba Zink: Jessica Fisher and Sonja Mundt. The PCC students completed the optional project by working at least 10 hours at the Montebello Homework Club. Zink will continue to give her Spanish students the option to volunteer with Bienestar to fulfill project requirements in the coming scholastic year. Rachel Ruffin and Jessica Ferreira, two graduates from Professor Zink's class, also returned to complete a full year of volunteering at Homework Club. The volunteers at Montebello worked notably hard to make the program a success. We had 23 students on the roster 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 Montebello 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 assign a volunteer to the first, second, and third grade tables to help the students with homework and reading and build relationships with them. Other Bienestar staff members and volunteers circulated the room, assisting children who had questions and checked their work for accuracy. 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 3:00 p.m. 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 3:15 p.m. 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. Thanks to Catlin Gabel School's donation of hundreds of books to our library last term, 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 take turns reading to. The students enjoyed reading to the dog and it was a great motivational tool for them. When reading to the dog the students were focused and engaged.



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 won an ice cream 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, saying "please" and "thank you", or saying something nice to someone. At the end of the month those who got a ticket get a prize.

We recently started a monthly newsletter for the parents of Homework Club. This is a way for the parents to have a better idea 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. This term we visited one of the parents whose child was having behavioral problems with some of the other students. We talked to both child and parent about what was happening and executed a plan to help correct the situation. By the end of the term the student had corrected her behavior.



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 23 students enrolled in our Montebello Homework Club at the end of the third term of the 2010-2011 school year. Attendance was consistent with an average of 19 students per day. A few of the sixth graders arrived late on Monday, for a couple of weeks due to after school tutoring, but attend the full day on Wednesday.

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. We collected report cards from 20 students 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 85% of the students increasing their individual GPA and having an average net improvement of 2.63. The group GPA increased dramatically this term from 2.51 to 2.81 with 17 students increasing their individual GPA, one remaining the same, one lowering hers, and one who does receive letter grades. All of the students who increased their GPA's also had positive net improvement in subjects. Two students improved their homework grade and two lowered theirs. However, one of

the students that lowered her homework grade still improved her GPA, and the other student only had a slight decrease in her GPA.

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. Thank you to everyone who helped make this a great year of Homework Club.



Homework Club celebration! 6/1/2011

Respectfully,

Elena Barreto
Program Coordinator