Hello again from the ESLAsC Southpark After-school Program! Many exciting things have happened since our last quarters’ update and we are happy to share that our program has grown from 35 students to 42! With the change of the seasons have come fun changes in activities such as a winter field trip to the movies, snow day specials, and Southpark’s very own 2014 Winter Olympics! We have seen students grow in academics through positive report card feedback, 3 parent/teacher conferences, and verbal communication with 14 classroom teachers at students’ various schools. Southpark has had an excellent addition to the staff team in Amy Arnold, a teacher at Siebert Elementary school, who has been able to work in small groups with specific students struggling with math and literacy skills, along with providing additional homework help.

Although the winter months can seem dreary, Southpark students have kept things lively with fun events such as a Holiday Party in the month of December and a special Chinese New Year celebration in the month of January. Students continue to enjoy routine “specials” such as music and science, as well as special events including a snow day movie where students and staff viewed the movie, “The Croods” together.

LeaderSpark: Say “No” to Bullying!

On Monday, March 10, students were engaged in activities and discussion regarding the topic of bullying by the anti-bullying group LeaderSpark. Students observed and participated in several skits about bullying, and talked about the truths behind how bullying breaks down individuals and communities. LeaderSpark led students in student-centered activities about what can be done through students to make changes in a positive way.
Another winter favorite was the 2014 Southpark Winter Olympics! Students formed teams based on their daily table assignment and picked the country they desired to represent. Students then made country flags and participated in daily competitions, such as an outdoor Bobsled event and an indoor Marshmallow Toss. Winning teams will be given honorary medals along with a surprise treat of ice cream! Shh! Don’t tell! :)

Parent Night!

Students were able to exhibit their “Skittle Science” artwork (photo below) during Southpark’s Parent Night. We were thrilled to have 25 families represented through participating parents who were able to hear the “ins and outs” of daily programming, see where their student sits daily, and view art and science projects completed. Parents were also able to meet program teachers, ask questions or raise any comments/concerns they had. Many parents stated significant gratitude for progress they have seen in their children and how the ESLAsC Afterschool Program has helped.

Sullivant Spelling Bee:

During the month of December, 5 Southpark Afterschool students from Sullivant Elementary school had the opportunity to participate in their school’s spelling bee. One student in particular, Misti, was among the last 7 students to participate in the competition! Some of our staff had the chance to observe and cheer the students on and could not have been more proud!

Coming Soon:

In coming months we are thoroughly looking forward to increased parent-involvement through events such as a Community Potluck and an end-of-year Family Gathering. We are also excited for a special visit to Skate America as our next field trip! We are ready for the warmth to SPRING into some outdoor learning fun!

WE APPRECIATE YOUR CARE AND SUPPORT OF OUR PROGRAM AND OUR STUDENTS. THANK YOU!

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