

## Primary School Science Club Summary

### Background

Science Club is a program to encourage kids to explore science in the world around them and use the skills they are learning in the classroom to record their results. This program is for ages K-2 (primary school). This club was started in January 2006 with the financial support of the local Oak Ridge/Knoxville section of the American nuclear Society (ANS) and manpower provided by the Oak Ridge chapter of Women in Nuclear (WIN). This club is currently a series of take-home experiments kids perform with their families at their convenience, with results and new ideas to be shared with other members of the club via a Science Club website. The club was started at Farragut Primary School this past January as a pilot program.

### Who

The local ANS section approved a budget for the pilot project, with the understanding that WIN provides the manpower. Due to the high cost of supplies for the experiments, the parents pay a membership fee for each child. Additional contributions to the program have been made by Oak Ridge National Laboratory organizations (Nuclear Science and Technology Division and the Radiation Safety Information Computational Center), Spectra Tech, URS Corporation, Georgia Department of Transportation, the SEE program, and the Delta Gamma Sorority.

### What

After registering, each child was supplied with a basic kit of supplies and a storage box, to encourage families to set aside space and materials for club activities. Then, each month, the children were provided with a color handout and a package containing the items needed to do the experiments outlined in the handout. The handouts also included a list of suggested books from the school library and suggested websites. To date four experiment kits have been developed: Light and Color, Geology, Biology, and Magnetism.

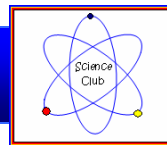
A website has been created for the club. The website provides a description of the program, contact information, the handouts, parent feedback forms, and most importantly, the results the kids send back to the club.

The web address is: [www.discoveret.org/scienceclub](http://www.discoveret.org/scienceclub).

### When

The club was initiated in January 2006, with the first experiments being handed out during the first week of February 2006. WIN and ANS local section volunteers research various topics to create color handouts and experiment kits. The research includes reading books, surfing the web, and testing out the experiments. WIN chapter meetings are used to prepare experiment kits. Volunteers distribute the kits at the school library on school mornings.

## PRIMARY SCHOOL SCIENCE CLUB



### How Much and How Many

The current school population at Farragut Primary is 1035. Science Club had 361 members in grades K-2. 370 kits were normally prepared. The additional kits were used for teacher workshops and demonstrations.

### Feedback

The children were very excited when picking up their new kits. They were able to return results to the club via the library. This required special effort on the part of the parent and child, as it is not part of the normal routine. Feedback from parents and teachers via personal conversation has been very positive. Feedback from the teacher workshop where the kits were demonstrated was unanimous and positive.

### The Future

The Farragut Primary School program will continue. Membership is expected to reach 400. Three additional schools have requested we begin clubs, and the total membership for the 2006-2007 school year is expected to reach 600.