

Brownsville-
Dr. Juliette Garcia Middle
School Gators
Established 2003-04

Principal

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Dr. Garcia Science-Spanish Club (SSC) participated in an array of activities during the 2007-08 school year. During our weekly meetings, students continued monitoring the black mangrove trees that were still in our propagation pond. They built their own hydrometers, and then tested three mystery samples ranking the samples from lowest to highest

salinity. Students also explored the process of upwelling. In this activity, students used plastic shoeboxes and modeling clay to create the

coastline around Monterey Bay in California. Water was added to part of the model, and then ice-cold water, colored with blue food coloring was added. Using a straw the students then simulated wind and observed the effects of wind and waves as the ice-cold water, that was at the bottom of the "ocean" rose to the surface. Both of these activities came from Immersion Presents, a program that was part of the JASON project training that I as the sponsor received in January of 2008.



A big highlight was when students met and talked with several members of the Gulf of Mexico Foundation, (GMF) board of directors after they toured the propagation pond at the school on February 27, 2008.

One of the most spectacular events took place on October 27. The Science-Spanish Club joined forces with the principal's leadership council and together over thirty students and teachers planted over 1000's black mangrove trees in the Bahia Grande. This was a realization of a goal for the SSC as students had maintained and cared for these trees for over two years. The students are looking forward to planting the rest of the trees sometime next fall. Additionally students are anxious to receive two more propagation ponds and begin growing salt marsh grasses.



The SSC also participated in two environmental cleanup events, one in the fall and then in the Bahia Grande Limpianato Parade and Cleanup in Port Isabel Texas in the spring. The club also orchestrated the Earth Day-Arbor Day Celebration at our school in April. Students helped plant several Texas indigenous trees, lay mulch down, and clean the campus.



