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Memo to Macy (Omaha Nation) Science Teachers

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Memo to Macy (Omaha Nation) Science Teachers

Hi Crystal and Sandi,

I hope this message finds you well and re-energized for another school year. We had our second annual Family Aeronautical Science mini-retreat this past Saturday at the Marina Inn; I have attached an agenda for your review. As you will note, we have team members at Winnebago, Walthill, and Santee. However, I was asked “where’s Macy” and I thought I had better see what it will take to get Omaha Nation to join us this school year.

As you probably know, the FAS program centers on upper elementary and is focused on improving math, science, and technology using aeronautics. Upper elementary is where the 4 reservation school superintendents told us several years ago to start. Personally, as someone that has 17 years of elementary and secondary experience, I agree that developing the feeder program is critical.

We have not ignored the upper grades though as we sent two young ladies to U. of N Arizona this summer for an astronomy program last month and a large group of HS and NICC students at Santee were hired for a 4 week session in GIS lead by Shelly Avery and Leland Henke. All students learned to use several GPS units that we bought for the school; learning Arcview and other GIS software was also a part of the training. These students will be presenting the results of their individual projects to the community in October.

This past school year, a total of about 11 faculty members at the reservation schools, NICC, and Little Priest got travel grants, small faculty stipends and summer research fellowships. Several individuals went to GIS workshops during the summer and another went to a 3 day rocket camp in CO.

Most recently, I have finally completed the Family Science Starter Kit, a 30 page manual that shows how to do all the activities. I will mail you both a draft copy of the manual today as the regular copies are not back from printing yet. Also, with the second year programs at the other schools, we will be building and flying the Delta Dart and well as the Estes Gnome Rocket during the Family Science Nights this year. The attendance at these past events has been as many at Santee as 130 and at Walthill of over 170 students, teachers, and family members.

So, what can I do to get FAS started this fall at Omaha Nation? Last year, I thought Ed Zendejas was working on this relationship but it appears that much preliminary work was not accomplished so we need to cover a lot preliminary ground again. This year, the team at Omaha Nation will include me on a limited basis since I live in Ohio, Dr. Sam Brown, and Jocelyn Nickerson. Crystal, you met Sam and Jocelyn when we brought the banner up this past spring.
So, where do we go from here? I’d like to have you on the team this year. I have small faculty stipends for both of you and I know that any of the other teachers at the other schools who have done the Family Science Nights are will to assist Omaha Nation getting started. Maybe through the after school program might be a way to go. I’m sure you know Shelly Richling at Walthill; I know she and Terri Greenleaf at Winnebago are close by and are ready and willing to help.

We had a blast last year; hope you can share in the program this year.

Regards,

Hank

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