

Kids Beach Club puts fun spin on scripture learning

By PAM KUMPE
Bowie County Life

Kids Beach Club, an afternoon Bible club, meets Tuesdays at Crestview Elementary in New Boston.

About 130 kids in grades three to five registered for the program at the first of the school year. Coordinator Terry Hughes of First Baptist Church in New Boston, said the reception and excitement of the club is amazing and rewarding.

"We were pleased to see so many register, and at first we were hoping 30 or more might sign up. When the forms rolled in, we quickly knew the six trained volunteers we had in place wouldn't be enough," Hughes said. "That's a great problem to have, and all I can say is, this program is working because God is using people who see the need for such a fun-filled club for children."

Hughes said 30 trained volunteers come each Tuesday afternoon to organize the snacks, scripture lessons, singing and teaching. His wife, Christy, shares the Bible story with children, Travis Bryant leads the music and a host of other volunteers work in the groups.

"I'm so excited we're reaching children for Christ with positive Christian lessons," he said.

Although most of the volunteers attend First Baptist in New Boston, Hughes said the church is merely a sponsor.

"This is a Christian Bible club, and we encourage other churches to get involved and to be a part of making a difference in the lives of area children," he said.

Hughes said there are five basic parts to the club: getting connected with the children, having worship time, learning memory verses, telling them a Bible story and a fun review time.

"We want them to know they're accepted and loved by God. As we connect with the kids, we also want to help them to find a church family if they don't currently have one," he said.

Last year volunteer Camille McCool heard of the afterschool program at the Plano, Texas, school district and asked Hughes to look into it. He said at first he really wasn't sure what Kids Beach Club offered. After arranging a meeting with founder Jack Terrell and going to Dallas to see how the



Children get into the fun during a recent meeting of Kids Beach Club at Crestview Elementary in New Boston.

Staff photo by Pam Kumpe

program worked, Hughes was motivated to bring the program to New Boston.

"I knew this was a great outreach to minister to children outside of churches," Hughes said.

Hughes said 18 children in the program have confessed faith in Jesus, but only three of them belonged to a church.

"We want to reach our young people for God," he said. "We are the first to hold such a Kids Beach Bible club under the umbrella of Kids Beach Club in Euless, Texas. We have all received training and gone through the background checks, and we love the children. It's exciting to see them listen, engage in a positive environment, and the program teaches cooperation."



Staff photo by Pam Kumpe

Children review scriptures during Kids Beach Club at Crestview Elementary. The club meets every Tuesday.



Staff photo by Pam Kumpe

Terry Hughes of First Baptist Church in New Boston leads a recent session of Kids Beach Club at Crestview Elementary.

Kids Beach Club founder wants youth to 'connect to Christ'

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Jack Terrell of Euless, Texas, was encouraged by his pastor in 2002 to reach children outside the church walls of First Baptist Church in Euless where he served as children's minister.

Terrell now serves as president and founder of Kids Beach Club after accepting that challenge. He said the club has 59 afterschool Bible programs meeting at public school cam-

pus, with most in Texas.

"The way this has taken off is incredible, and our first program included active participation from two principals as well as many other good people," he said.

Terrell said the process began in 2002 and that by 2003, Kids Beach Club held its first afternoon program at a public school.

Terrell said good friend Dr. Bill Anderson also presented him with the idea of going national with the program.

"God broke me and designed this awesome program, and so many people have encouraged me, as did pastor John Meador, who was instrumental in coming alongside me with this vision."

By January 2006, Terrell launched the nonprofit organization and stepped down as the children's minister at his church to become the president of Kids Beach Club. Since then it has branched out all over Texas, including the Dallas-Fort Worth area, Houston and Lubbock, and even in

Atlanta, Ga.

"I was speaking at a conference in Chicago at Willow Creek Community Church when Dana Sutton of Atlanta, Ga., heard me talk about our Bible club. She just had to see if they could get it started in their area, and they now have an area director in Georgia, Karen Jones, who oversees their outreach. It's a program that is growing and touching the lives of our kids," Terrell said.

"We target kids in grades three to six, the preteen group, because it's

statistically proven they are receptive, and we want to reach them with a positive, morally, Bible-based program so they can connect to Christ."

Terrell is also actively mobilizing churches of all denominations to get involved at their school campuses with this program.

"We have every faith partnering with us on this journey. We simply want to see kids have a relationship with Christ."

For more about Kids Beach Club, go to kidsbeachclub.org.