

Ector County Independent School District
(432) 456-0000
802 N. Sam Houston Ave.
Odessa, Texas 79761
www.ectorcountyisd.org



Mike Adkins
Public Information Officer
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

PICK Education brings next round of scientists to ECISD students, staff

The ECISD Innovation Department, PICK Education and the Education Foundation of Odessa is once again bringing in a special treat for ECISD students and teachers. Join us on April 2 for Fun with Chemistry with Dr. Kate Biberdorf. Dr. Biberdorf is a lecturer and Director of Demonstrations and Outreach for the University of Texas in Austin. She is a general chemistry instructor and known for developing explosive demonstrations that excite students! She is highly motivated to inspire students of all ages to pursue a degree in STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Math)-all while diminishing the stigma around women in science. Following the presentation, ECISD teachers will join Dr. Biberdorf for a professional development session on how they can use what they learned from the presentation in the classroom.

Event Details:

Fun with Chemistry with Dr. Kate Biberdorf

April 2, 2018

Odessa High School Performing Arts Center at 9:30 AM

Permian High School Auditorium at 2:15 PM

Join us Live on Twitter @PICKeducation #PICKedu #ExtremeSTEM

On April 4 Dr. Igor Siwanowicz, biochemist and world-renowned nature photographer, will be presenting on entomology to the students at Nimitz Middle School. He will focus on metamorphosis/development and insect survival strategies such as mimicry and threatening displays. As a scientist, Dr. Siwanowicz studies the intricacies of dragonfly neuroanatomy, and as a photographer he has a passion for photographing nature. He treats his models like miniature celebrities, often employing lighting and background techniques of fashion photography, attempting to trigger a dissonance in the viewer- a conflict between culturally imprinted perception of a bug as something repulsive, revolting and ugly, and a newly acquired admiration of the beauty of its form. His photography has been featured in the books, *Super-Size Bugs* and *Animals up Close*. He has received international awards from National Geographic, Nikon, Olympus and GEO Magazine.

Following the student presentation, 15 ECISD educators will join Dr. Siwanowicz on a discovery professional development expedition where they will have field experiences and hands-on learning on entomology, herpetology, biology and more. Three other experts on herpetology, paleontology and engineering from Virginia and Dallas/Ft. Worth will also join the expedition. The three-day expedition includes a collaborative venture with our district partner, Northwest ISD, in Fort Worth, where they will use the NISD Outdoor Learning Center for field surveys and exploration. Two other sites include a private ranch for a herpetology

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and paleontology survey as well as a mine site for exploring geology, stratigraphy and engineering. This professional development opportunity was made possible through a Chevron grant.

Event Details:

April 4

9:30AM and 10:30AM

Nimitz Middle School Gymnasium

Join us Live on Twitter @PICKeducation #PICKedu #ExtremeSTEM

Reporters interested in joining the field experience, please contact the Innovation Department at 456-9507 for more information. Contact Jason Osborne at Jason.osborne@ectorcountysd.org or 202-345-1615.

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