

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



Mike Adkins  
Public Information Officer  
Date: September 30, 2016

## **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

### **A week of science for ECISD students**

Science will be at the forefront throughout next week beginning on Monday when representatives from Chevron and Kent Kwik visit Zavala Elementary School, 1201 Clifford Street, to award a Fuel Your School classroom grant for Sharkfinder. The presentation will begin at 10:00 a.m. and will help to kick off this year's Fuel Your School campaign. Through Fuel Your School everyone can help their local schools by filling up at participating Chevron and Texaco locations in Midland and Ector counties. Chevron will donate \$1 per 8-gallon or more fill up, up to \$500,000, to help support public education at schools in Midland/Ector counties. Sharkfinder gives students the chance to sift through 19 million year old matrix (science term for the ancient marine sediment; it's not dirt) where they could find a significant fossil.

Thursday and Friday, October 6 & 7, several groups of students will have the unique experience of learning with Biochemist and award-winning photographer, Igor Siwanowicz. Since 2011 he has studied the intricacies of dragonfly neuroanatomy, specifically the neural circuits responsible for prey capture. He initially took up photography in 2003 as a means to keep the winter blues at bay. Treating his models like miniature celebrities and often employing the lighting and background techniques of fashion photography, he attempts 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. He is the author of two books and winner of numerous awards for his work. You will find a short story of work at this link - <http://www.hhmi.org/bulletin/spring-2013/beautiful-beasts>.

On Thursday a total of 250 high school and middle school students will bus to the Chevron campus in Midland for an 11:00 a.m. presentation entitled "Intersection of Art and Science" followed by a live demonstration of insect behavior & morphology.

On Friday a smaller group will go out into the field with Mr. Siwanowicz. We will send you the exact travel times and locations for this early next week.

You will recall as the school year started ECISD announced the launch of a new initiative called PICK Education that is created to bring school to life for students, and connect them to real world problems far beyond their classroom walls. These projects fall under this PICK Education umbrella.

For more information about this release please contact ECISD Communications at 456-9019.