



ScienceQuest – A JVS Discovery Channel

Young students at two Boston-area JVS-run Computer Learning Centers are discovering the worlds of science and technology with the help of ScienceQuest, a three-year pilot program funded by the National Science Foundation and run by the Education Development Center. The after-school and summer session enrichment program has just completed its first year in six area test locations including First Realty Management's High Point Village in Roslindale and Camelot Court in Brighton.

The ScienceQuest model is designed to motivate small teams of students to ask scientific questions and discover the answers for themselves by exploring Boston's museums and resource centers like the Franklin Park Zoo and the Museum of Science. After the research phase, students publish their findings on a bilingual website using state-of-the-art resources like software, scanners and digital photography equipment provided by the JVS-managed Computer Learning Centers.

Jennifer Dorsen, Project Director of ScienceQuest, is thrilled at the progress the program's first year is making. "One of the goals of this project is to bring together teaching methods that we know work in school locations and adapt them to after-school contexts," she says. "In ScienceQuest the kids direct the explorations and the adults guide and help steer. Combining this idea with the won-

derful technology at the Computer Learning Centers makes for some dynamite learning moments."

The ScienceQuest Team at High Point Village celebrated the launch of their new website at their computer lab on Thursday, August 23. Teacher, Dana Weber, who was first introduced to ScienceQuest in the fall of 2000, feels it is a great concept. "I was eager to help High Point be one of the six test sites in Boston," she exclaims. "I love to teach all ages, all backgrounds and I love the possibilities of technology, which is why this program was a perfect fit."

The High Point students, with the guidance of their two adult teachers—Dana Weber and Diana Pomales, and Junior Coaches, sixteen-year-old Marie Harb and fourteen-year-old Noel Esteves, used their "science quest" to question, research and discover the history, habits and habitat of the king of all beasts—the lion. Barbie Figueroa, age eleven, whose artwork is published on the website found learning about lions "interesting and fun," especially when the team visited Franklin Park Zoo's own lion's den. And nine-year-old Belgianny Guerrero, who helped translate High Point's Lion Website from

English to Spanish, said he learned a lot too. "Did you know that you can hear a lion's roar for 5 miles?" he asks.

High Point's teenaged Junior Coaches added to camaraderie of the experience and learned *continues back page*



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a bit themselves. Noel Esteves believes ScienceQuest will help him face challenges ahead of him as he enters Catholic Memorial High School in West Roxbury as a freshman this fall. "I learned a lot from Dana," he says. "I learned patience, about making HTML codes and how to make a website look good—that was the hardest part!"

"ScienceQuest was a great experience for me combining everything I love," adds Boston Latin Junior, Marie Harb with enthusiasm, "I love working with children and I love computers and what I can make them do. It was awesome watching the idea of lions evolve into a wonderful website."

So some classic Q & A with a technological twist, dedicated teaching and a lion's share of hard work resulted in very informative site. The ScienceQuest Team at High Point Village invites you to visit <http://library.thinkquest.org/SQ0110120> and let them know what you have learned.

Sharon Leavy *continued from page 3*

says Cindy Lyman, MSPCC Chief Financial Officer. "She's a quick learner, takes initiative, and has a terrific attitude. I think she's going to do really well at MSPCC."

Never one to grow complacent, Sharon already plans to enroll in a JVS evening course to continue her education and become a more valuable employee. Soon, she hopes to be able to move into her dream apartment—one with no pets, no carpeting, and hopefully, less trouble with her asthma.



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