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# Elementary students benefit from service learning project



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Posted: Friday, December 16, 2011 2:20 pm | Updated: 5:55 pm, Fri Dec 16, 2011.

By **JENNIFER SUMMER**

The students at Oakley Elementary School were full of excitement as a cart and boxes full of books and science kits were donated to the school in a special ceremony.

It came as a surprise Dec. 14 to the school's principal, Penny Peacock, and the school as a whole when all of items were donated to the school as a part of a service learning project by Lone Star College-Kingwood students.

The students chose to select Oakley Elementary as the first to receive these donations in the area especially since one LSC-Kingwood student in particular, Krystle Murphy, lives in the area and has a child who attends the school.

## Elementary students benefit from service learning project

Oakley Elementary Principal Penny Peacock, left, with parent and Lone Star College-Kingwood student Krystle Murphy excitedly announce to students Dec. 14 that science kits and books had been collected and donated to the school by students in Dr. Brian Schmaefsky's biology class at the college as part of a service learning project.



"It is very exciting for us to have the opportunity to donate equipment like the science kits from eScience Labs and books which will help the students," Murphy said.

Since Oakley Elementary is a new school, the donated books will help build up the library and the kits will allow students to have the resources needed for the science classes especially in light of recent budget cuts.

It was through Dr. Brian Shmaefsky's biology class the students were able to donate the items and understand what service learning is in the community. The kits were used by the biology students in their class at

Lone Star College-Kingwood and ordinarily the items would just be thrown away.

The college students will also reach out to other colleges with a video to encourage them to donate their kits back to elementary schools like Lone Star College-Kingwood has done.

"We are working with a college from the Dallas area to donate kits as a service learning project like we did so that something will happen with the kits; they will not just be thrown away," Shmaefsky said.

There was about a 75 percent return from Lone Star College-Kingwood biology students, which was beneficial for

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the students at Oakley.

"We are extremely excited. At first, we did not know the whole scope of the project but what it is has grown into everything that will benefit Oakley Elementary students," Peacock said.

For more information about eScience Labs, log on to [www.esciencelabs.com](http://www.esciencelabs.com).

For more information about Oakley Elementary, log on to <http://oe.newcanevisd.org>.

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