



PRESS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Morgan Elementary Students Act Out Air Pollution

Students at Morgan Elementary in Galveston ISD participated this month in Ozone Theater, a program that uses elements of theater to teach about air pollution. Younger students took part in an activity called Pesky Polluters, where they acted out sources of air pollution such as a factory, bus, plane, and a gas station. Older students in grades 3 through 5 learned about the meaning of the colors of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's Air Quality Index and acted out activities that are safe at different levels of air pollution in a game called Good Ozone Bad Ozone or GOBO.



Morgan Elementary Magnet Coordinator Antonio Corales, Asst. Principal Rachelle Joseph, students Arielle Moore and Samantha Melendez, and Principal Annette Dailey receive a set of air quality flags from Mothers for Clean Air for participating in Ozone Theater in October.

“Children who have never heard about ozone or the atmosphere really understand what we are teaching,” said Ozone Theater leader Kelley Dale. “Even kids who have learned about air pollution before have fun reinforcing what they have learned.”

A President's Cabinet Award from the University of Texas Medical Branch makes the program free for 100 Galveston elementary classrooms. Each of the 25 classes at Morgan Elementary participated, and every child received a

bookmark with visual reminders of what they learned. Teachers were given an activity guide with follow-up activities to reinforce what the children learned.

Morgan Elementary was also presented with a set of five colored flags to serve as an outdoor air quality warning system. Students check local air pollution levels on the Internet and post the appropriate flag for other students and teachers to see.

Ozone Theater is a joint project of Mothers for Clean Air and the University of Texas Medical Branch Theater Outreach and Education. The program was given a national EPA Environmental Excellence Award in May 2007.

Mothers for Clean Air is a local non-profit organization focused on air pollution and its effects on children's health in the Houston-Galveston area. The organization educates the public about air quality on a regional and community level and advocates for cleaner air at all levels of government.

For more information about Ozone Theater, go to <http://www.mothersforcleanair.org/aqinfo/ozone-theater.html> or call Rosalia at 713-526-0110.

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