



*Our students will lead and shape the future*

## News release

**Feb. 16, 2016**

### **Weather wizardry at Lowell Elementary**

*Shannon O'Donnell, KOMO news meteorologist brought weather (even lightning!) inside for second graders*



Lowell Elementary students can tell you quite a bit about weather now. They are even pretty good little weather prognosticators after their visit with KOMO news meteorologist Shannon O'Donnell on Feb. 5.

“Air and Weather” is one of the science themes for second-grade. Materials teachers need for those lessons are packaged at the district Science Resource Center into “kits” to save teachers time and expense of collecting hands-on materials. Teacher Stacey Wartenbee literally thought “out of the box” last year as she prepared for the “Air and Weather” lessons.

“Shannon came to my class last year,” explained Lowell teacher Stacey Wartenbee. “I was looking then for a way to spice up the second-grade weather lessons, and I invited her. She had such a great time with last year’s students, she asked to come back this year.”

O'Donnell's hands-on activities made low and high pressure real for students – and thunderstorms too. “Students were really surprised to learn lightening travels up rather than down,” said Wartenbee. “Students created lightning with a balloon and learned lightning safety tips from Shannon. They were especially interested in being safe on the playground!”

(more)

O'Donnell had students conduct experiments to see how different clouds produce different amounts of rain. The rain in our area is drizzly and drops about 40 inches of a year. "Students compared that to the rain and clouds in Orlando, Florida. They get 80 inches of rain each year there, and it comes in a downpour from different kinds of clouds."

For O'Donnell's visit, all of Lowell's second graders gathered, so three full classrooms were entranced by the weather wizardry of the woman they'd only seen on TV. Before the visit, students of Wartenbee, Mrs. Lindseth and Mr. Michalski had read non-fiction articles about clouds and the water cycle. Now, with that knowledge and what they learned during O'Donnell's visit, they are writing about clouds and weather systems.

They have also been talking weather at home, according to Wartenbee. "We have spent a lot of time observing the weather and identifying clouds, and several parents have told me their children are talking about cloud types and what that means. The parents are impressed and surprised. The kids are so knowledgeable; they can make accurate predictions. I've learned so much myself. Having a meteorologist has extended the science kit and made it much more exciting and fun to learn for everyone."

**For more information:**

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