

4TH Quarter Success Stories from ENP District II – Germ City

Ginger Frederick

We took Germ City to Butte View Elementary School. For two years Germ City has taught kids about washing their hands. Sometime I wonder if the students get tired of hearing the same thing over and over. This year, in one of the second grade classes, I asked if they would share their ideas of what germs are. One boy raised his hand and said that a germ is something that can get on your hands and make you sick and that you should wash hands to get rid of those germs. He had remembered Germ City's message from last year! I guess good messages bear repeating.

Katrina Smith

The excitement, the chatter in English and Spanish, and the Germs have caused uproar in the community at Payette Westside School. "Germ City" was presented at an open house for parents. Parents, grandparents, sisters, brothers, and others were given the chance in the big black tent to have magical lotion spread on their hands in hopes of spotting germs. After the germs were detected participants were required to wash their hands for 20 seconds or sing the ABC song. One more time they entered the tent to see if they had washed off the magical lotion. There was lots of excitement and stories about the big black tent and how they saw the germs.

A school counselor approached me after the Germ City event and talked about a conversation she overheard between two Hispanic parents and a Hispanic teacher. She said they were speaking fast and had so much excitement in their voices while they showed places on their hands and faces where they saw germs. They encouraged this teacher to go through Germ City, and they laughed and giggled as they exited the tent. It's great to hear success stories like this when people are learning about new things and sharing their experiences with others.

The school superintendent stopped me in the school and told me she had received several phone calls from parents thanking the school district for having Germ City at their recent open house. She said she had seen us busy at work talking to many students and their parents and how excited they all seemed waiting in line for their turn to go through Germ City. She praised me for all the great work done in the schools and said next time she wanted to have the newspaper come and interview the children and families. She told me that she spreads the word about ENP wherever she goes and talks about how ENP has helped in many areas in her school district. I know that I have a lot of support from the teachers and administrators to teach school children in this community about nutrition.

Germ City at Payette's Westside School for Fourth and Fifth Graders and their families was a big success! The day after the event, the school cooks told me that the students were showing them their clean hands. They were talking about how dirty hands are full of yucky germs and that can cause them to get real sick. A few of the children even asked the cooks if they washed their hands because they were concerned about the spreading of bad germs. They told the cooks that they should go through Germ City the next time it comes to their school.

Patty Daughdrill

This summer I had a chance to work in some of the other counties. When I was demonstrating Germ City to a Food Safety Advisor at the Canyon County Fair, I started talking to one little girl and her family about the lotion that would allow them to see pretend germs inside Germ City. The little girl said, "I know all about real germs and pretend germs and how important it is to wash our hands. A nice lady came to our school and taught us all about germs." She then told me she went to school in Council and I realized the nice lady was one of my fellow Nutrition Advisors. The NA had showed the students how easily germs are left on things by having them touch a pencil after they put on the special lotion. This experience reinforced the fact that our message is actually having an impact on the children we see.