

# Comal Independent School District

## NEWS RELEASE

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**Release Date:** Jan. 14, 2010

### **Videoconferencing continues to be a hit in Comal ISD**

If students in Bridgeport, Mich. didn't have the full attention of Wendy Moore's third grade class at Rebecca Creek Elementary already, all it took was a bucket of snow to make them wide-eyed.

In a videoconference with a weather-based theme, fourth-grade students from Bridgeport showed photos of the two inches of snow their town received that morning and even made snowballs in class.

To further demonstrate the climate, in which temperatures have ranged from 10 to 20 degrees Fahrenheit over the past few days, the students showed what they wear to go outside – snow pants, insulated boots, and thick scarves and mittens – and then showed the Texas kids how to make a snow angel.

"It was just hard to believe how much snow they have up there," said RCES third grader Tyler Lindell. "I don't think we've had that much snow here since I've been alive."

Students in Moore's class asked questions like, 'Do you get to go outside and play when it snows?,' and the answer was a resounding yes.

Students from Bridgeport couldn't believe it when Moore said, "We usually don't go outside when it's less than 45 degrees." And they seemingly all wanted to come to Texas when a RCES student said the average high temperature in January was a little more than 60 degrees.

"This experience is so great for our students," RCES principal Sharon Richardson said. "It's so fun to see them be able to interact and learn about other parts of the country and the world."

Comal ISD Instructional Media Specialist Jennifer Wivagg agreed.

“Videoconferences like this go on every day now on our Comal ISD campuses, and I think it’s wonderful,” Wivagg said. “It’s a very exciting time to be a student in our district.”

In fact, this was one of 22 weather-based videoconferences that will take place in Comal ISD this month.

Other current videoconference themes include “Writing Rules,” where students will talk with an actual author, “Careers in the National Football League,” and talking with an educational specialist from NASA.

Canyon Middle School hosted a “Careers in the National Football League” videoconference recently and spoke with a representative from the Pro Football Hall of Fame in Canton, Ohio.

Topics covered included discussing and showing students the history of the Dallas Cowboys, Super Bowl tickets and football equipment, and talking about the hundreds of NFL careers available like marketing, human resource, and jobs in the medical and journalism fields.

“The students enjoyed learning what the football equipment looked like in the past and what a Super Bowl ticket cost compared to today,” said CMS Career Connections teacher Tweety Haas. “They were also amazed with all it takes to host an NFL game, from ticket sales, to the marketing aspect, to security, to getting food for the concession stands ready.”

Wivagg said she expects videoconferencing to continue to become a part of everyday classroom life.

“Our teachers and students seem to enjoy it so much,” Wivagg said. “Now that we have the technology in every one of our schools, it’s so easy to use. I definitely see it being a big part of what we do in Comal ISD for a long time to come because videoconferencing is such a great interactive educational tool.”

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#### IN PHOTOS:

Students in Tweety Haas’ Career Connections class at Canyon Middle recently held a videoconference with a representative of the Pro Football Hall of Fame in Canton, Ohio. Topics ranged from reviewing the cost of a Super Bowl ticket through the years to careers in the National Football League like marketing, human resources and journalism.

Students in Wendy Moore’s third-grade class at Rebecca Creek Elementary were in awe when fourth graders in Bridgeport, Mich. made actual snowballs in class during a weather-based videoconference.