

# Comal Independent School District

## NEWS RELEASE

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### **Clear Spring Elementary first-ever Texas school to 'Rock Our World'**

A group of fifth graders at Clear Spring Elementary are truly global learners.

This fall, 44 fifth grade students at Clear Spring Elementary began work on an exciting learning experience.

Art teacher Miles Glasscock applied and was accepted to participate in Rock Our World, a global learning project started in 2004 by California teacher Carol Ann Maguire.

Clear Spring was chosen as one of only 45 schools from six continents, and is the only Texas school ever to participate in the project.

This year, Rock Our World's focus was Peace and computer animation. Fablevision founder, author and illustrator, Peter Reynolds donated two copies of his animation software Animationish to each school involved. Schools had to create a two-minute video showing their animated vision of peace.

This was challenging to the students because they needed to come up with animation that answered the question "How will your school help to show world peace?"

After much collaboration, the fifth graders decided that peace starts with an individual and is then shared with another person, eventually spreading all over the world.

Additionally, each school created music using Apple software Garage Band. Clear Spring students started with a drum beat then passed it to seven others schools in Hawaii, Japan, Belgium and New Zealand who added to the song. Each school continued adding bass guitar, synthesizer, a sound from their school, strings, a creative choice and vocals.

On Nov. 20, the fifth graders and their parents gathered in the cafeteria at Clear Spring Elementary where the students participated in an iChat with all of the Rock Our World schools.

Fifth graders also logged into Edmodo on the laptops and chatted with other Rock Our World students. Students and parents were able to watch the other schools present their music, animation and answer questions about their projects on Ustream.

“This was quite an event for the fifth grade students that gave them the opportunity to open the lines of communication between citizens of various countries and states that would normally never occur,” said CSES principal Betsy Nash. “It helped them see that our large world becomes much smaller with the use of technology.”

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IN PHOTO: Students from Clear Spring Elementary School communicate and collaborate with students from six other continents in the unique Rock Our World project.

