

September 2, 2014

Dear Bill Oliver,

We wanted to thank you and your organization for the wonderful *Mother's Earth Day at the Springs* event in Zilker Park. As in the past, this year's Spring-time event was found to be well managed, entertaining, educational, and accessible to all including our school's students who have special education needs.

The great variety of activities for children and their teachers were well thought out and offered easy access to all. No matter their ability level, students were able to actively participate in creating projects, get up close to learn from a magician or a pirate, listen to unique music, and see the water displays. There was so much to see!

On a practical note, in spite of the many bus -loads or cars full of students, teachers, and volunteers, the festival never felt too crowded. Our school groups managed to enjoy several activities as well as to find a comfortable spot to relax and eat lunch in the midst of all the other festival goers. All areas from the parking lot, event stations, and picnic spots were clean, and well managed, and safe.

Your organization provides our students with an opportunity to have motivating, experiential learning and a break in routine from the classroom experience. The fourth grade team celebrated the end of the state testing by making tie dyed T-Shirts to wear to the event in "Keep Austin Weird" fashion! In addition to the celebration of the event, lessons about water conservation are taken back to, and extended in our classrooms. Having worked diligently on the Science curriculum all year, the enrichment from your event helps maintain student's interest and enables them to make connections to the real world.

Another value of attending the event is that it gives our student's a sense of joy and pride in their city, their community, and the wonderful unique resource that Barton Creek is for Austin. Finally, in these days of austerity for public education, that you have provided this event free of charge to our students makes it affordable for us to attend. Thank you so much for all you do for the community!

Sincerely,

Sylvia Corwin, Special Education Teacher

Adrienne Pardue, 4<sup>th</sup> Grade Team Leader

C: Elia Diaz-Camarillo, Principal