

Dear Water Bear Club Families,

I am so sorry that I had to cancel Water Bear Club last minute this week. My husband was in excruciating pain and I had to take him to the ER. He has a kidney stone and a contorted intestine. We stayed in the hospital for a potential surgery but they decided not to go through with the surgery. He is recovering slowly. Thank you for being so flexible. We will have Water Bear Club next week, which is the last week of this session. The final session is just 3 weeks long, from May 6 – May 20. Since it is just 3 weeks, it is \$50 per student. The sign-up form can be found on TheDiscoveryDen.weebly.com, or the fifth grade website update.

In regards to exciting news about our Water Bear club and the following week:

Last year, I received the Ernest and Sarah Butler Awards for Excellence in Science Teaching from Texas Medical Association. They awarded me \$1,500 personally and \$1,000 for science materials. I used the money for microscopes, biology books, and petri dishes/slides/coverslips. Dr. Butler is the philanthropist who funded this grant. He is a retired physician- you may have seen his name on UT buildings, like the Butler School of Music. After hearing of our findings and work, he asked to observe me, but now wants to have TMA's communications team at Water Bear club to take pictures and videos of the students in action. They were so impressed with what the students have done and are doing in the Water Bear Club. They were thinking they could embargo any of the stories on this until I get the manuscript published. Then they would share on social media and their bi-annual newsletter and possibly in *Texas Medicine*, the association's monthly magazine. Very exciting! Currently, the plan is for them to come next week, on Monday after school at our Water Bear Club, on April 29th. This is still up in the air, and may need to occur the following week. I will let you know if that changes.

Regardless of the date, in order for TMA to have permission to take pictures and use them in possible publications, please fill out the Media Release form attached. You can leave the date blank until we know for sure what date they are coming. Just make sure to fill out the names and sign.

Thank you,
Hannah Cotten