

Community School offers winter break programs

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TVN staff

The Teton Valley Community School will hold winter break programs for its third year in a row.

The three classes are open to all area kids and will focus on snow safety skills as well as winter science and ecology.

TVCS program administrator Melissa Young, said the programs, which run from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m., focus on getting the kids off campus and into the outdoors, as well as retaining the school's focus on "project oriented learning." She cited an example of this learning style from the school year, which was the kids creating their own GaperGuide for the Teton Valley modeled after the program in Jackson Hole.

Project oriented learning applied to the winter programs means having students, not teachers decide what the kids will learn about.

"If the kids are really excited about something, instructors are prepared to run with that," Young said.

This also means having the groups experience things first hand, not just learn about other peoples' experiences. "If we're going to learn about surviving in the snow, the best way is to be out in the snow," she said.

Young said a good example from last year's program, which will be repeated this year, was teaching kids avalanche safety by bringing out a team of rescue dogs. The dogs not only found items the children had buried in the snow, but the team also buried some kids for the dogs to "rescue."

Young said the winter programs attract kids from outside the valley including kids who attend the school's summer

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Melissa Young
Teton Valley Community
School

programs, and have come back for the holiday break. Though Young said this type of learning is especially important for area children, "especially living here in the Teton Valley, there is so much to know," she said. "It's so different that any other part of the country."

Young said groups are limited to 16 kids each. Even though they try to be flexible and accommodate everyone, she said the best way to make sure your child has a spot is to sign them up as early as possible.

The classes are open to children three years old to sixth grade, and cost forty dollars. Young children must be potty trained and child care before and after is 15 dollars extra. The first program day is December 30th, with two more days on January second and third.