

Staff Spotlight ~ CoTeaching at Camelot

By Leslie Redding

Program Coordinator

NEISD Department of Special Education



Cody Kemp &
Paul Goodwin

At Camelot Elementary, Mr. Cody Kemp and Mr. Paul Goodwin co-teach twenty four fifth grade students in the areas of reading/English language arts and mathematics. Co-teaching is a partnership between general and special educators who share the philosophy that they are responsible for all children.

Co-teaching requires interweaving the skills of both educators to meet the needs of all students.

Mr. Kemp was born in Lubbock, Texas. He graduated from the University of Arizona, Tucson with the goal of becoming a teacher. He taught government and social studies at Presidio High School in Tucson for one year and then moved to San Antonio where he taught English/language arts and history to fifth through eighth grade students at New Frontiers Charter School for six years.

Mr. Kemp began teaching fifth grade at Camelot Elementary in 2007, and this is his first year co-teaching. He has spent time traveling in Europe and Central America. Mr. Kemp also played professional soccer and now coaches a youth soccer club team. He enjoys traveling and spending time with his wife, Amy, and his children, Max and Zoe.

Mr. Goodwin was born in Monterrey, California. He attended California State University of Sacramento and obtained a degree in Business Administration. Mr. Goodwin and his family moved to San Antonio in 2000, and he began his instructional career as an assistant in a special education classroom. He obtained his teacher certification and began teaching at Camelot Elementary in 2003, where he has served as an instructional facilitator in second and third grades and a co-teacher in fifth grade. Mr. Goodwin has worked with ten different co-teachers over the past six years. He enjoys running and sports in general. He has two children, a two-year old and a three-year old, and he and his wife are currently expecting their third child.

Mr. Goodwin reports that he has had very good experiences as a co-teacher because of the teachers with whom he has worked. He enjoys co-teaching and being a part of the teaching process. Keys to

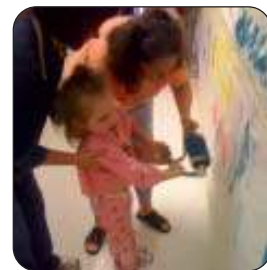
success when co-teaching, according to Mr. Goodwin, include discussing roles and expectations with your co-teacher before the school year begins, talking to one another, and setting aside time to plan lessons.

Mr. Kemp conveyed the need to utilize both teachers' strengths and allow the other teacher to expand a thought or an idea while co-teaching a lesson. He reports that students have made gains on benchmarks and reading progress this year. Keys to successful co-teaching, according to Mr. Kemp, include compromise, meeting on a regular basis, deep content knowledge by both teachers, and planning lessons and choosing instructional strategies that most benefit the students.

Mr. Goodwin and Mr. Kemp have demonstrated excellence in instruction using the co-teach model as evidenced through formal observations and serving as a model classroom for other district staff. Students are engaged and enthusiastic while learning. A variety of activities and differentiated instruction strategies are pre-planned in each lesson to meet the needs of all students. Mr. Kemp and Mr. Goodwin truly share the responsibility for educating each fifth grade student in their classroom at Camelot Elementary. ■

Parent Super Saturday

The Department of Special Education, Dyslexia and Section 504 sponsored a Parent Super Saturday on Saturday, April 17 at Bradley Middle School. Approximately 70 people braved



rainy conditions to attend the half-day event. Dan St. Romain, Educational Consultant, opened the day with a general session on parenting/teaching skills titled, "Accentuate the Positive." A special workshop, Arts for All/Adapted Art and Play, focused on art for students with physical disabilities. The morning was filled with new information and sharing by parents, educators and students. ■