

# Neighbors

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**ON THE COVER:** Nick Alvey, 8, left, son of David and Carolyn Alvey of northeast Richardson, along with brothers Nathan, 3, and Sam, 6, enjoy frozen treats during the Miller Elementary School PTA Meet the Teacher ice cream social Aug. 8. The event was held just before the two older boys started the new school year in the Plano ISD. FOR STORY AND ADDITIONAL PHOTOS, OTHER BACK-TO-SCHOOL COVERAGE, SEE PAGES 12-13.

SUBMITTED PHOTO BY DAVID ALVEY

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## Neighbors IN THE SPOTLIGHT

# Children enjoy week of fun, therapy at summer listening camp

By GRACE VAN ORDEN

The UTD Callier Center for Communication Disorders last month hosted some 60 children from around the Dallas-Fort Worth area and the country at the 11th annual Crystal Charity Ball Cochlear Implant Summer Listening Camp.

The children, ages 3 to 12, attended the camp July 24 to 28 at Bill Bates Cowboy Ranch in Celina.

The listening camp, one of only a few in the country, provides children with cochlear implants the opportunity to receive therapy, practice listening and speaking skills, and interact with other children who have cochlear implants in a fun environment.

The day camp had the theme A Soundsational Sea Adventure! and engaged children in recreational activities such as painting, fishing, swimming, relay races and hiking, as well as a number of very special activities, such as an auditory treasure hunt. Each child was paired with a camp buddy — a UTD graduate student majoring in speech-language pathology or audiology.

“The listening camp is one of



PHOTO SUBMITTED BY GRACE VAN ORDEN

**TWO-BY-TWO:** Campers Emily Tranchina, left, of Far North Dallas and Farah Javed of Plano work with Nichole Brezel, a UTD/Callier graduate student, and Phillip Gilley at the summer listening camp at Bill Bates Cowboy Ranch in July.

only a few in the country,” said Melissa Sweeney, camp director and a Callier speech-language pathologist. “With an increasing number of hearing-impaired children receiving at least one cochlear implant, we’re seeing more children attending each year, many from other parts of the country.”

“The children who come to the listening camp tend to have so much fun, they hardly know they are receiving practical therapy,” said

Sweeney.

■ For more information on the listening camp, visit [www.callier.utdallas.edu/camp.html](http://www.callier.utdallas.edu/camp.html) or call Melissa Sweeney at 214-905-3139. More information on the Callier Center is available at [www.callier.utdallas.edu/](http://www.callier.utdallas.edu/).

*Grace Van Orden represents the The Harrell Group in Dallas, which handles publicity for the UTD/Callier Communications Center.*

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Check out **The Dallas Morning News** Metro section each Sunday for expanded coverage of Richardson/Lake Highlands.

