



A Publication for Concordia Elementary School:  
*LEARNING THROUGH NATURE* is a Junior Gardener  
Program for K-5 sponsored by the San Clemente  
Garden Club and the Concordia PTA.

## If you plant it...they will come!

### Cultivators Corner

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**2<sup>nd</sup>/3<sup>rd</sup> Grade Seed Starting Days** - we recently completed one seed starting project day with 2<sup>nd</sup> grade students and look forward to completing the project with 3<sup>rd</sup> graders this week (rain permitting). Thank you to all the parents who came out to support this project and your students. Your assistance definitely made a difference! Parent and Club volunteers were spread out in 3 stations (soil/seeds/water).

Choosing seeds...



Watering with rainwater...



Students were excited to start their two seed cups (host/nectar); some chose Tithonia or Mexican Sunflower seeds (nectar) collected by students during the September Workday. They will plant one of these seedlings in the 2<sup>nd</sup> grade garden and bring the other home in March. After starting seeds, students truly enjoyed filling watering cans with rainwater from the 5<sup>th</sup> grade barrels and watering anywhere they pleased. What a wonderful addition that project has been to the garden! Thank You PTA!!

Two parent volunteer teams are being developed to support the Kindergarten habitat/seed garden expansion and the new 3<sup>rd</sup> grade CA friendly habitat location. If you are interested in assisting me in developing the plans for these two projects, please notify me immediately as these projects need to be completed by February for planting in March, before Spring Break. We need your support to make them a success! Both are fully funded through recent grants.

## It's Time to Get DIRTY!!

**5<sup>th</sup> Grade Rainwater Harvesting Project** - the first phase of the project involves students painting the butterfly or marine life images they create onto the recycled plastic drums. Parent volunteers are needed for various prep projects (base spray coat/tracing art) and actual painting supervision. Artistic experience is not required. Additional parent support is requested for installation of the 4 barrels in Kindergarten. For sign-ups and scheduling info contact Kris at [kethington@cox.net](mailto:kethington@cox.net).

**Jr. Gardener Workdays are 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursdays Every Month at 2:15! Please Join us January 21<sup>st</sup> (cancel if rained out).** We've been very busy and having a great time in the gardens since the school year started. Our Workdays have been such a great success that I was inspired to apply for a statewide (California Garden Club's Inc. or CGCI) Jr. Gardener Achievement Award for 2009. We will learn the results of the competition in June. Either way, you all should be very proud of yourselves, as I know I am of you.

**Concordia Junior Gardeners** are now an official Youth Garden Club recognized by CGCI and sponsored by the San Clemente Garden Club. Our monthly maintenance meetings/Jr. Gardener Workdays, represent our regular Club meetings, of which in 2009, over 100 people participated, 59 of them Concordia students!

## Sowing The Seeds of The Future!

**Attention 2<sup>nd</sup> Grade Parent Volunteers...** Please consider taking small groups of students out to the garden to water with rainwater from the barrels and explore the plants or insects with students. The PTA has funded new watering cans and water keys so that students can take part in nurturing their garden. Let your child's teacher know you'd like to participate. See how much they enjoy the experience!



## Dew Drops...

Thank you to all our dedicated watering volunteers. Since the rainy season is now upon us, please monitor the gardens for watering by checking the depth of soil moisture. New plants and wildflower seeds have been planted so we do need to maintain moisture for the next few weeks, especially. Bring a watering can for the kids to fill from the rain barrel water in 2nd. Thanks for all your continued involvement.

## Gardeners Know the Best Dirt...check these out!

- Monarch Watch - Monarchs in Space - <http://monarchwatch.smugmug.com>
- Captain Planet Foundation - <http://captainplanetfoundation.org> (Concordia Jr. Gardener Sponsor!)
- WaterSmart SC: Do More With Less - <http://san-clemente.org/sc/standard.aspx?pageid=279>
- Concordia PTA (butterfly garden page) - [www.concordiapta.org](http://www.concordiapta.org)
- Concordia's District Website - Butterfly Garden Link: <http://cces.capousd.ca.schoolloop.com>
- San Clemente Garden Club Jr. Gardener Page - [www.sanclementegardenclub.com](http://www.sanclementegardenclub.com)