



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

DID YOU KNOW....just 1 year ago, Concordia students returned from Thanksgiving vacation to find a NEW butterfly garden had been planted for them as part of the *Learning Through Nature* Junior Gardener Program. From that first day, students observed butterfly caterpillars in the garden. Just a month later, they witnessed the first Monarch butterfly laying eggs on the milkweed. Based on the feedback I've received, this project has been a little bit of sunshine and huge success in an otherwise challenging time in education. As a community and as educators, we've pulled together for the benefit of the children. **Happy Anniversary and Congratulations to everyone at Concordia!** (November 2009 Workday)



SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENT.... *The Learning Through Nature* Program has received a \$2,300 grant from The Captain Planet Foundation (CPF) which funds and supports hands-on environmental projects for children and youths nationwide. According to Taryn

Kris Ethington, Editor: kethington@cox.net

Murphy, Program Director, CPF, "Of the thousands of requests for funding we receive every year, your request was selected as one of the best." <http://captainplanetfoundation.org> Thank you Captain Planet Foundation, we are honored by this recognition and support! One of the areas that this grant will fund is the expansion of the Kindergarten butterfly habitat and seed garden. We are fortunate to have Luke Kinsella, a freshman at SCHS and a sibling of Rachel (3rd), offer to make this his Eagle Scout Project this year. We are developing a team of Kindergarten parents interested in participating in the planning and construction of this garden. Luke will submit a plan and enlist fellow Eagle Scouts for construction. Dads with construction skills, tools, and trucks are highly appreciated! Completion is planned by February (around planting time). Let me know if you are interested.

5th Grade Rainwater Harvesting Project - in 5th grade science, students learn that over 70% of the Earth's surface is covered by water but only about 1% is fresh water, used by people. Through this project, they learn to appreciate water as a valuable resource, not to be wasted but rather to be collected for use in the garden! **Parent Volunteers Needed To:** prime plastic barrels (spray paint primer); transfer student drawings to barrels using transfer paper; assist students while painting; installation/plumbing of the barrels in the Kindergarten butterfly garden.

It's Time to Get DIRTY!!

Jr. Gardener Workdays are 3rd Thursdays
Every Month at 2:15! **Please Join us**
December 17th - meet for instructions in the
2nd Grade/Paleontology Park garden!



2nd Grade Teachers: Kim Burns & Jamie Hobson

The turnout of students, parents, teachers, and club members who work after school an hour every month to maintain the school gardens is just amazing! In just three months, we've had at least 33 students participate after school, many of them have returned more than once! This is in addition to their parents, grandparents, and younger siblings. Thank you for taking such pride in the butterfly gardens and sharing the experience with your families.

Sowing The Seeds of The Future!



November Workday

Dew Drops...

Thanks to several Concordia families and garden club members, we are doing well with our watering schedule in the three butterfly gardens. Hopefully, the rainy season will take over soon. If it has rained and you are unsure of the need for watering, please check the soil to see if it is moist past the surface. Thank You!! Contact Kris at kethington@cox.net or 388-1107 for more info.

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

- 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>
- Miramar Wholesale Nurseries - www.miramarnurseries.com
- Concordia Junior Gardeners - www.itsyourenvironment.org (then Gardens tab)
- Concordia's District Website - Butterfly Garden Link: <http://cces.capousd.ca.schoolloop.com>
- San Clemente Garden Club Jr. Gardener Page - www.sanclementegardenclub.com