



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

SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENT: California School Garden Week is October 24th - October 31st! California School Garden Network (CSGN) encourages schools throughout California to host garden activities and events to celebrate the success of school gardens across CA. In recognition of this week, Concordia's Junior Gardeners will all receive a package of butterfly host seeds (milkweed) and butterfly nectar seeds (Pincushion flower) from the San Clemente Garden Club! These seeds were collected from plants raised by Garden Club members, Bill Schafer and Simone Costes, who generously offered to donate and package them for all 641 Concordia students! That is almost 1300 seed packages and a ton of SEEDS!! You'll want to plant these seeds now through May either in the ground or in pots. Take advantage of the rainy season and give your seedlings the start they'll love! Milkweed is the favorite food of the Monarch caterpillar and the Pincushion flower is a favorite nectar plant for all insect pollinators.

Did you hear...THINGS ARE STARTING TO ROT IN THE 4TH GRADE CLASSROOMS! That's right, The Worm Lady, Diane Cheek, taught 4th grade students all about how worms (decomposers) will turn kitchen waste (fruit and veggies) into rich compost! Students learned that Red Wigglers don't have teeth to

chew up the scraps from the kitchen so they rely on rot to begin the decomposition process. What 3 things do worms need to survive? Air, Moisture, and FOOD! This means that 4th graders will need to save their apple cores, peelings, lettuce, rinds, banana peels, egg shells, coffee grounds/filter paper, tomatoes, etc. What DON'T we want: bread, meat, onions, garlic, and stinky veggies that take too long to DECOMPOSE and will smell up the bin! It takes about 6 months to get a return of COMPOST, but the wait is worth it and the process is educational! Plus, you are RECYCLING, REUSING, AND REDUCING which helps the ENVIRONMENT!

Mr. Page's class paints their Worm Bin!



Thank you to ALL our parent and garden club volunteers, and especially, Diane Cheek, The Worm Lady!

PARENT VOLUNTEERS NEEDED for the 5th Grade Rainwater Harvesting Project in Nov/Dec! Barrels will be installed in the Kindergarten area. Email Kris to learn more: kethinaton@cox.net.

It's Time to Get DIRTY!!

Jr. Gardener Weeding Workdays are 3rd Thursdays Every Month at 2:15! Please Join us on November 19th - meet for instructions in the 2nd Grade/Paleontology Park garden!

Our Recent Workday, October 15th, was very well attended! Thanks to all the Jr. Gardeners, parents, and Garden Club members who volunteered in the garden. We accomplished a lot in a short time, even managing to do more weeding around Splash too! Kindergarteners had time to plant flower and veggie seeds in their garden! This monthly after school workday gives everyone the opportunity to share in the gardening experience regardless of their grade project. The social benefits are endless. Students represented grades K-5, and their siblings had fun too! Thanks again to the Cub Scouts who changed their volunteer service day to help us maintain the garden!



Students & parents water and weed the garden.

Sowing The Seeds of The Future!

Children observe milkweed bugs!



What's Sprouting up?

CONGRATULATIONS CONCORDIA! The City of San Clemente has recognized the *Learning Through Nature Program* for its **WATER WISE** environmental educational efforts with a grant of \$500 from the City's Water Conservation Program! The grant will support the 5th Grade rain barrels and 3rd Grade CA friendly plantings.

Dew Drops...

Last month I requested more parent volunteers to assist with watering Concordia's 3 butterfly gardens and your response was immediate! Thank you to our RECENT RECRUITS: Kim Young (K parent of Madilyn); Jennifer Holt (parent of Kendall/Ethan in 3rd/4th); and Michelle Crane (parent of Michael/Sophia in 1ST/3rd)! As I am no longer a Concordia parent, my visits to school are less regular, so all of you who keep an EYE on our gardens and help water are really important to their success! Give me a holler if the gardens need attention or you want to be added to our *Alternates List For Watering*. Contact, Kris Ethington kethington@cox.net or 388-1107.

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

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