



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:** Concordia's garden-based environmental education projects will be profiled on Real Orange KOCE-TV -Ch. 10 (Cox Cable) during the OC Green Segment hosted by Roger's Garden's - Wendy Proud (Proud Gardener) airing on Thursday, April 23<sup>rd</sup>, at 6 p.m/11 p.m. & repeated 4/24, 4/27, 4/28. [www.koce.org/realorange/](http://www.koce.org/realorange/) A few students from the 2nd Grade - butterfly habitat program and the 5<sup>th</sup> Grade - rainwater harvesting project were interviewed along with Kris Ethington for this brief interview.

Thank you to Concordia families and several teachers who came out to support Concordia's Jr. Gardeners at the San Clemente Garden Club's GardenFest & Plant Sale on April 18<sup>th</sup>. Jr. Gardeners: Kyle Manning (with 6<sup>th</sup> grade sis, Courtney), Mark & Johnny Bennett, Garrett Wade, Finn & Alec Schwartz, Kendall Holt, Isabella & Colby Bertrand, Claire Spencer, Hali Hammargren, and their parents worked the Jr. Gardener booth, sharing their gardening experiences with the community to promote butterfly gardening and helping to sell habitat seedlings. The successful Jr. Gardener fundraiser generated \$163.50 for future garden projects and we also received about \$90 in plant material from *Plant Depot* for the displays and planting at Concordia! Thank you to Isobel Pelham, Malcolm's grandmother, and the San Clemente Garden Club who donated the Jr. Gardener T-shirts given to student volunteers!

### Going Buggy

The Butterfly Lady (Kris Ethington)  
*Editor, kethington@cox.net*

Students observed as the life cycle continued for the Painted Lady Butterflies that were released from their in-class habitats. They watched as eggs hatched on the Hollyhocks (Mallow family plant) and saw how the shy caterpillars use a turned over leaf and silk web to create a sort of eating cocoon. The delicate caterpillars have no other protection but to hide from their predators. Take a look in the garden on the Hollyhocks for eaten leaves, caterpillar frass (droppings), and webbing, but don't disturb them. Students, as you are playing in the playground, take a look at the Cheese Weed (also a Mallow plant) that has a similar lily pad like shape to it and is a common weed in the grass. You just might find a Painted/West Coast Lady caterpillar there too. They eat this weed in nature before making their migration north as butterflies in the Spring. Remember students, caterpillars need specialized food to survive, so pay attention to what the caterpillar is eating before you conduct your scientific investigations, please do not remove caterpillars from the class habitats. They are important to our habitats and are educational learning tools. Be on the lookout, but remember to be kind.

**Attention 2<sup>nd</sup> Grade Parents:** Volunteers are needed to help weed the class beds. As they say...1 years weeds...7 years seeds, and we have them in full force! For scheduling, contact Kris Ethington [kethington@cox.net](mailto:kethington@cox.net) or 366-6923.

## It's Time to Get DIRTY!!

### *Upcoming Jr. Gardener Activities:*

2nd Grade Jr. Gardeners watched the DVD Butterflies and Moths by Discovery Education (Thank You, PTA) in preparation for The Butterfly Lady's caterpillar and butterfly talk that will take place in the garden soon. Kris will share Anise Swallowtail caterpillars which eat plants in the parsley family (dill, fennel, parsley, cilantro, carrots, etc.) and talk about their unique defenses against predators.

If your Earth Day Weekend was busy but you wanted to buy some habitat seedlings from the Jr. Gardeners, you'll have another chance at the Jr. Gardener Booth at Concordia's Carnival, May 29th. Jr. Gardener T-shirts will also be on sale as a Garden Fundraiser. The 5th Grade Jr. Gardeners will offer their student painted rain barrel and diverter as an auction item. Student/Parent volunteers will be needed at the booth. Watch for sign-ups.

### **Spring Has Sprung in the 2<sup>nd</sup> Grade Garden!**



## Sowing The Seeds of The Future!



*For a full slideshow of Jr. Gardener photos from GardenFest, go to SCGC link below.*



## Dew Drops...

Now that we have established 3 habitat gardens (K, 2<sup>nd</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup>), we need to increase the number of families volunteering to water them now and through the summer. Parent, Michelle Crane, has been generously watering the Kindergarten habitat 3 times a week, and others as requested! Thanks so much Michelle, Michael, Sophia, and Anthony! Let us know if you want to help. Contact Kris at [kethington@cox.net](mailto:kethington@cox.net).

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

- **CHECK OUT** the New Learning Through Nature webpage on It's Your Environment which promotes school based environmental education science projects - [www.itsyourenvironment.org](http://www.itsyourenvironment.org) go to Schools Tab, then Garden Clubs, then Concordia's Environmental Education!
- **CHECK OUT** Jr. Gardener Page/GardenFest event photo updates at [www.sanclementegardenclub.com](http://www.sanclementegardenclub.com)
- Concordia's District Website - Butterfly Garden Link: <http://cces.capousd.ca.schoolloop.com/>