



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

from The Teachers

2<sup>nd</sup> Graders are learning about life cycles first hand from the Painted Lady Caterpillars in their in-class habitats! Students observed the tiny caterpillars become hungry eating machines, shedding their skin (molting) 4 times before growing to about 2 inches long. Students witnessed caterpillars make their J's and turn into chrysalides and will see the butterflies emerge very soon! 2nd Graders also had the opportunity to plant their habitat seedlings and additional habitat plants in their class-garden areas! Junior Gardeners assisted by parents and Club members learned why they were planting certain plants, how to carefully remove their seedlings from containers, and how to measure the proper depth for their planting holes...(ask them about "no dips and valleys") They did a fantastic job and have been tending to their gardens with watering cans. You really must check out their progress and watch them shine with pride and knowledge!

3<sup>rd</sup> Graders enjoyed their fieldtrip at Casa Romantica Cultural Center and Gardens where they learned all about San Clemente's founding family and how Native Americans used certain plants in their daily lives. They also learned about the characteristics of native plants that have adapted to dry conditions in our environment. Ask your children about some of the fun names for plants...Flapjack, Blue Fingers, Pencil Plant, Crown of Thorns, etc. They enjoyed visiting the butterfly garden with

### Cultivators Corner (continued)

from The Teachers

so many Monarch butterflies, caterpillars and chrysalides! Education from the Casa trip was reinforced when they planted their CA Friendly & Native Plant Butterfly Habitat Garden near the office. This garden is an example of a drought tolerant butterfly habitat.

5<sup>th</sup> Graders whose drawings were selected for the class Rain Barrel Project painted the 3 barrels that are now collecting rainwater shed from the Project Splash portable building. Great work students! Artists will paint their remaining Butterfly Rain Barrel very soon. This barrel will be an auction item for the May fundraiser! To learn more about rainwater harvesting, including where to get materials, go to [www.sanclementegardenclub.com](http://www.sanclementegardenclub.com).

What a Month!! Kindergarten teachers, parents, and Garden Club members also weeded and prepped the Kindergarten planters recently! Teachers really appreciated the support! Students are planting veggie and habitat seeds this week. Parents and students also planted the garden with habitat plants from the nursery to get the garden ready for Spring butterfly visitors!

Don't forget to stop by the 3<sup>rd</sup> Grade CA Friendly planter (near the office) to see the **NEW GARDEN SIGNS** which direct you to all the science projects going on at Concordia!

## **It's Time to Get DIRTY!!**

### **Upcoming Junior Gardener Activities:**

**\*The Worm Lady (Diane Cheek) has been scheduled to give a lesson/demonstration for Mr. Page's and Mrs. Hill's 4<sup>th</sup> Grade classes on Worm Bin Composting.** Diane is a retired teacher and a Worm Bin Composting Instructor through CapUSD Community Education who is volunteering her time to share her passion for "Doing The Rot Thing." Students will be bringing kitchen waste (fruits, veggies, etc.) from home to feed to the class worms weekly, on Fridays! Please help your student remember to bring food in on Worm Feeding Day! The worms in their bin can eat a quart a week!

**\*SAVE THE DATE\* 2<sup>nd</sup>/3<sup>rd</sup> Grade Jr. Gardeners will participate in a community outreach and fundraiser for Concordia's habitat gardens through The San Clemente Garden Club's annual GardenFest & Plant Sale on Saturday, April 18<sup>th</sup> from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. VOLUNTEERS NEEDED \*\*Jr. Gardeners with their parents interested in volunteering to host the Jr. Gardener Booth should contact Kris Ethington: [kethington@cox.net](mailto:kethington@cox.net) to sign up, or inform your student's teacher. Times: 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. (30 minute sessions). The Butterfly Lady will be present all day to answer questions and assist students. Please Note... gardeners are early risers and plants will go fast!! Jr. Gardener participants will also receive a Jr. Gardener T-shirt (*If You Plant It, They Will Come*) to wear on the 18<sup>th</sup>! Students will share their garden experiences and the benefits of butterfly habitat gardening with the public. Plant sales are handled by Club members. The Worm Bin Composting and Rain Barrel Projects will also be displayed for the community. Concordia families...join in the fun and support our *Learning Through Nature* program!**

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

- **CHECK OUT** Concordia's District Website - Butterfly Garden Link:  
<http://cces.capousd.ca.schoolloop.com/>
- **ALL LINKS** Past/Present go to the San Clemente Garden Club - Junior Gardener Page  
<http://www.sanclementegardenclub.com>

## **Going Buggy**

The Butterfly Lady (Kris Ethington)  
Editor, [kethington@cox.net](mailto:kethington@cox.net)

**Exciting News! This month students were introduced to a new caterpillar, a Queen!** Although Queens exist in our region, they haven't been common recently in San Clemente. Queen Butterflies mimic the Monarch in their coloring and share the same benefit of protection from the Milkweed their caterpillars eat. The chrysalis turned into a female butterfly two weeks later and some of the students witnessed her release! She decided to stick around for the day, giving many more the opportunity to observe her behavior. Be on the lookout, maybe you'll see her in your garden! Hopefully, through our habitat program, we will be successful in reintroducing Queens to our area!



**Special announcement:** visit the San Diego Wild Animal Park Spring Break for their annual Butterfly Jungle exhibit - quite a treat for the whole family (limited time only). My family attends every year!  
[www.sandiegozoo.org/calendar/wap\\_butterfly\\_jungle.html](http://www.sandiegozoo.org/calendar/wap_butterfly_jungle.html)

## **Dew Drops...**

The Butterfly Lady has been watering the garden for students as needed. Students are now helping to water their class-gardens, but we still need to collect names of parent/student volunteers for holidays and the summer break to assist keeping our gardens green. If you can help, please contact Kris at [kethington@cox.net](mailto:kethington@cox.net). Summer at Concordia will be a blast with all the butterflies flitting about!