



Model EE Program

Searles EE Sampler

Students at Searles Elementary School strive to demonstrate good citizens skills by displaying a consistent ethic toward resource stewardship including reducing waste, learning about nutrition and the 4R's in the garden, leading healthy heart activities, completing storm drain service projects, collecting old batteries, and getting families off of junk mail lists.



Searles Elementary School

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Contact: Vince Rosato
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About the Program

Grade: Kindergarten to 5th Grade

Description: Cross grade-level reading buddies meet in the garden to read and work with buddy teams and to harvest winter and spring crops. The produce grown in the garden is used in recipes by the nutrition program and shared with students. Third through fifth grade students sort lunch recyclables and some classes take a field trip to the waste management center to learn about the 4R's or to city government offices to learn about connecting with specific environmental departments. Used batteries are collected for proper disposal. Families gather on weekends to distribute information about reducing junk mail or to paint storm drain signs.

Classroom Integration: Math & Science

Environmental Focus: Biodiversity, Ecosystems: Marine, Watershed and Wetlands, Endangered Species, Energy, Gardening & Composting, Plants & Animals, Pollution Prevention, Recycling & Waste Management, Stewardship, Sustainable Development

Academic Focus: Health, Physical Education, Language Arts, Science, Mathematics, Language Arts, History/Social Science, Visual & Performing Arts



About the Program continued...

Teaching Practices: Cooperative Learning, Student-centered, Hands-on, Inquiry-based, Real-life Issues

The Reading Buddies program focuses on Cooperative Learning while gardening and cooking are Hands-on. Field trips to the waste management and recycling center and the Tri-Ced Transfer Station demonstrate real life issues. Student-centered activities include the battery drop, storm drain painting, and the water conservation art contest. Inquiry-based learning occurs through the science curriculum.

Lesson Plan Available: Contact Vince Rosato

Website: <http://www.nhusd.k12.ca.us/Searles/searles.html>



Partners:

- Alameda County Office of Education Service Learning Program
- New Haven Education Foundation
- Parent Teacher Club
- StopWaste.Org Davis Transfer Station
- East Bay Philanthropic Association

Resources:

- Parent Volunteers
- Government Agencies
- PTA
- Principal and Teachers
- School Staff
- Local Businesses
- Curriculum

Program Highlights

- Reading Buddies Program in the garden promotes cross grade-level cooperative learning
- Students harvest produce grown in the garden and compost food waste
- Recyclable products are collected and sorted
- Field trips to the waste management center, Davis Transfer Station, city government offices
- Art contest on water conservation
- Family weekend gatherings to repaint storm drain signs or distribute information to reduce junk mail
- Letter writing to legislators about the environment
- Performed musical "Tidepool Condos"
- Parent recognition Annual Tea
- Translation of some newsletters and notices in Spanish, Urdu and Punjabi

California Academic Content Standards

Science

4.3.b Students know that in any particular environment, some kinds of plants and animals survive well, some survive less well, and some cannot survive at all.

History/Social Science

3.4 Students understand the role of rules and laws in our daily lives and the basic structure of the U.S. government.

4.5 Students understand the structures, functions, and powers of local, state, and federal governments....

Math

Number Sense: 5.2.0 Students perform calculations and solve problems involving addition, subtraction, and simple multiplication and division of fractions and decimals.

NSES K-4 Standard F: Science in Personal & Social Perspectives

