



KIDS for the BAY

Environmental education through action

Newsletter

January 2007

www.kidsforthebay.org

A Project of Earth Island Institute

Exploring The National Marine Sanctuaries

Imagine a place where over 400 species of marine birds come to breed, or where sea otters dive through thick forests of giant kelp in search of sea urchins. Imagine a place where the largest concentration of Great White Sharks in the world feeds on a vast population of Elephant Seals as they descend into the water from nearby rocky islands. This year, KIDS for the BAY students throughout Alameda

Thanks to a grant from the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), KIDS for the BAY will be partnering with ten fourth and fifth grade classes to bring these amazing marine sanctuaries to life in the classroom. In our Coastal Watershed Action Program, students will learn about our three local sanctuaries, Cordell Bank, the Gulf of the Farallones and Monterey Bay.



On their field trip to the Bay or ocean, students record their observations throughout the day.



Students investigate organisms that live in the rocky shore habitat. This student is holding a Purple Shore Crab.

Through hands-on activities, multi-media resources, student-led research projects and more, KIDS for the BAY students will learn how their local creek and bay watershed is connected to the sensitive marine sanctuaries located just outside the Golden Gate Bridge. This special opportunity to learn about the marine sanctuaries and their own watershed connections, will

County will be going on an adventure to one of the most biologically diverse habitats in the world—the Northern California Marine Sanctuaries.

help our students to develop new scientific knowledge and skills and to care for and act on behalf of the environment we all share. ♦



Location of the Marine Sanctuaries in Northern and Central California

\$25,000 CHALLENGE GRANT! WE MADE IT!

We have received the matching grant check from the Dean Witter Foundation. Thank you so much to all our donors who helped us to reach this goal for 2006! Your donation is helping us to partner with 4,600 students and 1,500 teachers in the 2006 – 2007 school year.

"The KIDS for the BAY curriculum is the one that I use year after year. Their training and modeling of lessons was excellent and left me confident and excited to teach the activities myself. In addition, the fact that they provided all of the materials showed me how deeply they understand the needs of teachers and how committed they are to ensuring smooth implementation of their curriculum."

—Laura Prival, Fourth Grade Teacher
Allendale School, Oakland

Become A Storm Drain Ranger – New KIDS for the BAY Program

..... 9 soda cans, 32 paper products, 4 fast food meal remains, 7 plastic bottles, 6 soda can rings, 19 candy wrappers, 8 plastic shopping bags, a tire, several gloves, a car oil can, a baby car seat...observed pesticide use, oil spills and soapy residue on driveways and streets...

One class of KIDS for the BAY students noted all these items during a neighborhood pollution survey, within just a couple of blocks of their school. They also collected all of the garbage from the street and so prevented it from entering the storm drains, creeks and the bay. But why does this matter?

Storm water runoff is the number one source of water pollution in the San Francisco Bay. It accounts for far more pollution than seemingly more shocking events like oil tanker spills, which make the news headlines.

Students participating in our new KIDS for the BAY Storm Drain Rangers

Program learn why this matters in a three workshop series dedicated to learning about the local watershed, the effects of storm water runoff pollution and the importance of clean water.

Thanks to a new contract with Alameda County Clean Water Program, The Storm Drain Rangers Program will serve 20 classes of students and their teachers, in Alameda County, each year for the next four years. A total of 80 teachers and 2,400 students will participate. Storm Drain Rangers emphasizes change and action. Alameda County Clean Water has targeted seven main sources for storm water pollution reduction, including: mercury, pathogens, pesticides & fertilizers, soaps & detergents, oil & grease, sediments and litter. Students participate in activities that address these pollutants and learn how our daily activities can minimize our impact on the environment.

KIDS for the BAY students also go home and teach their families what they have learned through interviews. At the end of the interview each student and his or her family member make a pledge together to reduce storm water runoff pollution.



Storm Drain Rangers brave the rain to complete a neighborhood survey and clean up project.



Students take an up-close look at the storm drain system.

You too can become a STORM DRAIN RANGER and an advocate for a clean and healthy watershed by following these simple guidelines:

- dispose of garbage properly so that it does not get into the streets and the storm drains – even better, practice the Four Rs: Reduce, Reuse, Recycle and Rot (compost)
- recycle used motor oil; do not pour it down storm drains
- fix leaky cars promptly
- reduce the amount of driving you do – every little bit helps!
- dispose of household chemicals such as paint and cleaning fluids at your local hazardous waste facility
- take your car to a car washing facility – do not wash it on the street and let soapy water and residue run into the storm drain
- use green alternatives to harmful pesticides. ♦

KIDS for the BAY - Now In Our Fifteenth Year!

FROM THE DESK OF THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

I began KIDS for the BAY as a one-person venture in 1992. Now in our fifteenth year of operation, we employ a staff of nine people and deliver seven excellent, award winning programs to school students, teachers and families each year.

Since 1992 we have delivered programs to 36,000 students and 1,500 teachers.

We continue to deliver cutting edge environmental education programs that incorporate hands-on science activities, the principals of education through action and environmental justice. Our professional development packages, including hands-on training and academic credit for teachers, continue to have a lasting, school wide impact. KIDS for the BAY's thorough program evaluation process continues to inform

our planning as we develop new programs and improve on our current program practice.

The support of all our funders, donors and collaborators has helped us to come this far!

This school year we have expanded our programs into southern Alameda County schools, where there are relatively few environmental education resources. This summer we will expand our summer camp into San Francisco. Next school year we will continue to deliver our programs throughout Alameda and Contra Costa Counties and we will begin programs in Marin County for the first time.

Please continue to help us bring environmental science education to all children; to open their eyes to the

wonders of science and nature and to the ways that they can make a difference in their environment.

How you can help:

- pass this newsletter on to a friend, family member or your child's teacher!
- sign your children up for our exciting summer camp 2007
- make a donation to KIDS for the BAY
- find out if your company has a gift-matching program and ask them to match your donation
- host a house party to help to spread the word about our work.

Here's to the next fifteen years! ♦

Mandi J. Billinge



KIDS for the BAY staff 2007 – top row left to right: Education Director Sheela Shankar, Program Director Kristina Cervantes Yoshida, Program Coordinator Leslie Parra, Program Director Leslie Haynes, Program Coordinator Sayo Costantino, Education Director Shefali Shah – second row left to right: Program Coordinator Adrian Wilson, Executive Director Mandi Billinge, Program Coordinator Francis Mendoza

Thank you Timberland!

On Earth Day 2006, the entire student population of Verde School in Richmond helped to clean up the section of Wildcat Creek that flows past their elementary school. Verde students and KIDS for the BAY staff were featured on CBS Evening

News as a celebration of their wonderful effort to clean up their creek. A team of volunteers from Timberland pitched in to help and worked hard all day alongside the children. This action project was chosen by Verde students

participating in the KIDS for the BAY Watershed Action Program, funded by Timberland Corporation and the Contra Costa County Watershed Project. ♦



A Sizzling Seventh Year of Summer Camp

The seventh year of summer camp is just around the corner at KIDS for the BAY, and it is going to be very exciting! We have added a completely new summer camp – the Mini Beasts

by adding more sessions AND we will be offering a camp in San Francisco for the first time this summer.

KIDS for the BAY 2007 Summer Camp Schedule

Aquatic Science Adventure Camp:

Age 8-10 –

June 18-22, June 25-29, July 23-27

Age 5-7 –

July 9-13, July 16-20, July 30-August 3

Mini Beasts Camp:

Age 4-6 – June 25-29, July 23-27



Discovering who lives in Wildcat Creek

Camp for 4-6 year olds. At this Camp, children will meet small, crawling creatures that live in a variety of Bay Area habitats and learn to appreciate these new friends. We have also expanded our Aquatic Science Adventure Camp

Visit www.kidsforthebay.org to download an application form or call (510) 985-1602 to have a form mailed to you.

Remember – our camps fill up early, so book now to ensure your place! ♦



Sailing on the San Francisco Bay



Investigating plant life at Berkeley Marina



1771 Alcatraz Avenue, Berkeley, CA 94703

