

# Garden Newsletter

## February 2010



Dear Teachers and Garden Parents,

February is a waiting time in the garden – waiting for sunshine, waiting for the first flowers, waiting for spring, and waiting to replant. You might notice the tulip and daffodil bulbs planted near your classroom doors are starting to sprout. Your students may want to measure and chart how much they grow each week, and when the first buds and flowers appear.

The mosaic stepping stones look amazing!!! We enjoyed making them with your classes in January. Thank you to all of the teachers and garden parents! The stones will be moved to room E-3 to dry, and they will be grouted by a volunteer team of adults. In the spring your class will take one of their stepping stones to place in the garden. The other will be stored until our school Farmer's Market on May 27<sup>th</sup>. Thank you to the Clark Family of Tile Outlet in Shingle Springs for their generous support of this project. If you would like to help with grouting (a tentative date of Tuesday, Feb. 9<sup>th</sup>), please email Karla.

**February Activities: Due to uncertain weather, both activities are planned to be indoors in the classroom.**

**#1: "Why is the Ocean Salty?"** Students will observe how salt concentration increases in water and how the salt remains after the water evaporates. The students will be able to explain why the ocean is salty.

**#2: "Make a Fossil"** Students will learn about fossils and make their own to display.

**Grade 4/5:** If your class missed the plant cell model activity in December, we recommend that you do this lesson in February.

**Kindergarten:** If your class is doing Life Lab just once this month, let us know if you have a preference for which lesson to do with your class. You may be interested in the Insect Observation lesson other classes did in January (studying insect specimens with large magnifiers).

**February Calendar:** The attached calendar shows the classes already signed up and open times through the end of the school year. The calendar is also hanging in the staff room. Please select dates for 2010, and email Gaynell to confirm any new dates.

**Coming in March:** Planting the spring garden and placing your stepping stone in the garden.

**Coming in April:** "What is a Watershed?" Exploring a pond ecosystem. Kindergarten classes will release ladybugs in the garden.

**"No Child Left Inside" Day:** This exciting outdoor nature-education day will be Friday, April 23<sup>rd</sup> (with a rain date of Friday, April 30<sup>th</sup>). If you're interested in helping, please email.

Your Life Lab Garden Coordinators,

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