

KIDS for the BAY



In Spring 2016, KIDS for the BAY received a \$5,000 grant from the Alameda County Fish and Wildlife Propagation Fund to support our Watershed Action Program (WAP) in six Oakland elementary school classes.

For each class, the WAP included five two-hour Classroom Lessons, a creek or bay Field Trip, a neighborhood clean-up, and a service-learning Environmental Action Project.

Thanks to the support from the Alameda County Fish and Wildlife Propagation Fund, KIDS for the BAY achieved the following goals:

- **180 students** increased their knowledge of watershed science in the classroom and in the field and became stewards of their local watershed.
- **180 family members** increased their understanding of their watershed environment and learned how to reduce storm drain pollution to the watershed.
- **Six teachers** increased their confidence in using the local watershed as an educational resource and empowered students to become environmental stewards.
- The WAP was integrated into the curricula and culture of partner schools and involved the school principals, teachers, students, and their families.



"The teachers have shared with me that they love this program. They are learning a lot from it, like how to use their local watershed to teach science. And the kids love it too! When I asked them about their Field Trip, they said it was the best day ever.

This was clearly a wonderful experience for our students."

Erin Kollings, Principal, Learning Without Limits Elementary School, Oakland

Visit www.kidsforthebay.org for more information!

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Progress Report to Alameda County Fish and Game, January 2017

KIDS for the BAY is pleased to share the following success stories from our Watershed Action Program in Oakland schools.

Lion Creek Clean-Up Project

After their school campus clean-up, students from Community United Elementary School in Oakland were so motivated to continue cleaning up their environment that they chose to clean up trash at nearby Lion Creek for their Environmental Action Project! As they walked from their school to the creek, Fernanda pointed and said, "That's my house right there!" Many of the students live near Lion Creek and were shocked to see how much trash was around it. One student, Adamarys, at first felt discouraged, and said, "There is no way we can pick all this stuff up. There's too much." Her classmate, Ofelia, comforted her, "We're doing this to protect the animals in the creek and the bay so they don't die. One piece can hurt them. We're doing what we can!" Rodrigo noticed a storm drain pipe that emptied into the creek and that had a sign above it to educate the public about storm drain pollution. He said, "If everyone knew this, there would be less trash everywhere!" By the end of the Action Project, students had picked up 65 gallons of trash. One of the parents said to KftB Instructor Cayla Naranjo, "This program brings awareness to things people do every day without thinking, like throwing trash out the window of a car. I'm sure none of these kids will ever toss trash on the street again."

Bay Shoreline Restoration at Crab Cove

Third grade students from New Highland Academy Elementary School in Oakland arrived at Crab Cove in Alameda proudly wearing the special KIDS for the BAY T-shirts that they had designed and created themselves! Michael, an East Bay Regional Parks District naturalist based at Crab Cove, introduced the bay shoreline restoration project they would be helping with that day.

After Michael explained how invasive plant species take resources away from native plants, the students were eager to help remove them. They weeded out wild mustard, fennel, and wild radish from the bay shoreline. One student, Lesly, said, "If we hadn't removed the invasive plants, they could take over the good plants that give food and shelter to animals that live here." Lexi added, "Did you see me pull out this big fennel plant? I'm really good at this!" Third grade teacher Ms. Tracy Dordell said, "My students really liked this activity. I hope we can start a native plant garden back at school."

At the rocky shore, students were amazed by how many animals live on the rocks. NKem said, "My favorite thing that I learned was that limpets have one little foot." Several students also saw limpets moving on the rocks. Brian noticed that rocky shore species use camouflage; he said, "It's hard to find some of the animals, because they look like the mud and rocks. That's an adaptation!"

After lunch, the students had a chance to explore the Crab Cove Visitor Center. Students saw the San Francisco Bay display with models of various bay organisms including the striped bass, which they

remembered from when they investigated bay organisms during their Classroom Lessons. Ms. Dordell brought out a soccer ball at the end of the trip. Aaliyah said, "I love that we can play soccer on grass here! At school, we have concrete." Lei'ani added, "I really liked taking my shoes off and feeling the sand and exploring the beach. I want to come back here with my family!"

Student Quotes

"I'm proud that we stopped 1,200 pieces of trash from going into the ocean!"
Geo, Third Grade Student, Learning Without Limits Elementary School, Oakland

"Before, when I went fishing, I was scared to touch the fish. Now that I know more about fish, I'm not scared anymore. I also learned that a fish has gills."
Rodrigo, Third Grade Student, Community United Elementary School, Oakland

Teacher Quotes

"The Watershed Action Program is exactly what Learning Without Limits needs. It incorporates science in a hands-on, experiential way. You guide students through the scientific process, while focusing on the importance of asking questions. This is what we want more of at our school. This program is crucial!"
Leo Fuchs, Principal, Learning Without Limits Elementary School, Oakland

"I love teaching with visuals, and the posters and examples in the Watershed Action Program curriculum binder will be great when I get to teach this program on my own."
Leah DeArmey, Third Grade Teacher, Learning Without Limits Elementary School, Oakland

"The Action Project impacted my students by giving them an opportunity to use their creativity and share what they have learned. The informative murals that they painted and the native plant seeds that they planted in the garden add color to our school and show others how they can help the environment."
Christina Boskovich, Third Grade Teacher, Greenleaf Elementary School, Oakland