

January 24, 2008

Central Elementary School and JMF embark on Conservation Week 2008

The Jarrett Meeker Foundation's Conservation Week 2008 is set to begin at Central Elementary School on Monday, February 4. The week will kick off with a fourth and fifth grade recycling competition, as well as a presentation for the students about the San Diego environment.

On Tuesday, Project Wildlife will present to the fourth and 5th graders on the native land animals that live in and around San Diego County. Project Wildlife has a great group of people who are excited to be working with JMF this year. JMF looks forward to a really strong and positive relationship with them in the future.

Wednesday will see SkyHunters visiting the school to give the fourth and fifth grade students a peek at the bird life that lives around the county. Thursday will have our friends from the Wild Animal Park coming down to visit with a variety of exotic animals to share with second through fifth grade students. Friday will see the end of the recycling competition, with the two winning fourth and fifth grade classrooms receiving a visit from JMF's friends at the San Diego County Sheriff's Department. They will be bringing out their K9 unit to show the students how animals help us everyday.

JMF's relationship with Central Elementary School began in 2007, when JMF agreed to sponsor nearly 150 third graders who wished to attend the Night Owls program at the Wild Animal Park. As part of Night Owls, the students met a variety of endangered animals up-close, took a private Journey into Africa tour, participated in games and campfire stories, and spent one night at the Park, where a lion's booming roar could be heard at all hours of the night.

Upon their return from Night Owls, Central's third graders were motivated to make a difference for the environment and quickly got to work on their very own conservation projects. The students came up with ideas for a recycling walk, door-to-door education campaign, and other such projects to help beautify their urban neighborhood and educate residents about the importance of protecting wildlife and the environment. The project culminated with a ceremony at a Conservation Celebration event, hosted by the students on July 17.