



GOVERNOR ARNOLD SCHWARZENEGGER

September 24, 2004

*Every Drop Counts*

I am delighted to send my greetings to all who have gathered to participate in the *Make a Splash with Project WET* event.

This water education festival enlists the service of more than 70,000 children at 120 sites across the nation to emphasize the importance of water conservation.

Understanding our water resources plays an important role in environmental stewardship and conservation. Since 1984, Project WET has been a leading water science and educational network dedicated to teaching children about water use and the role this precious resource has in our everyday lives.

I commend your mission to provide interactive, educational lessons on the water cycle, watersheds, ground water and water management. Your efforts help sustain healthy water resources for future generations.

Thank you for your dedication, and please accept my best wishes for every future success.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Arnold Schwarzenegger".

Arnold Schwarzenegger



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## Sixth-graders spend a day in 'WET' training

### **Water Education for Teachers program teaches kids to be conscientious about water**

*By John Waters Jr.*

*Editor*

Imagine a day getting WET training without actually getting wet. About 170 students from Calistoga Elementary School spent the day on dry land Friday while they learned, among other things, that even though water covers more than 70 percent of the earth's surface, it's still a finite resource.

"The kids are still talking about the program," said teacher Lindsay Olsen Tuesday afternoon. "The thing I'm hearing the most is that they understand that water is not in infinite supply."

Project WET, or Water Education for Teachers, is a nonprofit water education program and publisher for educators and young people ages 5-18. The program promotes awareness, appreciation, knowledge, and stewardship of water resources by distributing classroom-ready teaching aids facilitating programs like Friday's round-robin workshop co-sponsored by the Calistoga Mineral Water Company.

"This is the first year we've participated in the program," Olsen said. "Our principal, Kevin Eisenberg, introduced the program late last year, but this is the first class to complete the course."

The program is tailored to meet a set of learning standards established by the state department of education, Olsen explained.

"The state says that our curriculum has to meet a certain set of goals for sixth-grade students," he said. "They have to have a certain level of knowledge about the environment, the ecology and the availability of natural resources. This program dovetails with that extremely well."

During the day-long program students visited six stations where they learned about things like source pollution. They discovered through mock examples

that pollutants come from myriad sources like cars that drip oil, farms that use pesticides and more.

At another they learned how water moves from the surface of the ground to the water table. Using a model, Gary Cook, an employee of the Calistoga Mineral Water Company could show the students that water travels from the earth's surface, through the soil, then a layer of gravel, a layer of clay and finally reaches the water table.

An interactive demonstration of Cook's model was perhaps the most popular event of day. Students were placed in four rows along a slope beside the water factory. Each row was assigned a role representing a different strata of Cook's model. The top row represented the water. The next row, soil; the next rocks, then clay and the asphalt the water table. The water students had to pass through the other rows of students to reach the water table.

"It was a pretty cool," said Michael Collins, a student in Mr. Olsen's class. "Fun."

Olsen believes the students will take their newly-acquired understanding of the environment with them to Yosemite when the class goes camping next week.

"They're going to experience nature, the environment, first hand, and I think they'll be able to apply much of the knowledge they've gained here out there," he said.

Student's parents are footing the bill for their students to participate in the Yosemite project. Olsen said. The students will be given a disposable camera while in Yosemite. They will use the equipment to document their understanding of environment, a prospect Olsen finds exciting, given their new knowledge of the environment.



A Journey into Water Education

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
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## PRESS RELEASE

### Every Drop Counts: California Students to "Make A Splash" In Largest Water Education Event in the Nation

Calistoga, CA - On Friday, September 24th, 170 local elementary students will join nearly 50,000 others nationwide as they celebrate *Make a Splash with Project WET* (Water Education for Teachers), the largest water education program in the nation that was commended by Governor Schwarzenegger for its role in promoting environmental stewardship and water conservation to schoolchildren.

By participating in Make a Splash, students will learn the importance of ground water and how to protect the future of our nation's water. Make a Splash with Project WET, will be held locally at the Calistoga Mineral Water Company from 9:00 am to 4:00 pm in Calistoga, CA and is supported by the Water Education Foundation.

Make a Splash with Project WET is made possible nationwide through support from Nestlé Waters NorthAmerica and its Calistoga Mineral Water brand. Discussing the reasons for their ten-year sponsorship of Project WET, Kim Jeffery, President and CEO said, "The health of spring water depends on the health of the ground water system from which it flows. Protecting these water resources through sound science and broad awareness will help make these resources available for generations to come. Project WET and its supporters do a fantastic job building this awareness through the Make a Splash festivals."

About Project WET. Established in 1984, Project WET is an international water science and education program dedicated to teaching children around the world about water stewardship and conservation. A nonprofit organization, Project WET promotes awareness, appreciation, knowledge, and stewardship of our water resources. Project WET provides a complete curriculum of water education training materials, books and training opportunities, as well as a network of coordinators in every state of the continental U.S., Canada, Mexico, and the Philippines. Project WET is based at and affiliated with Montana State University.

"After 20 years of working with Project WET, I still love to watch the faces of children as they learn about ground water," said Project WET Executive Director, Dennis Nelson. "Our ground water model demonstration takes the mystery out of ground water and teaches kids how it can be managed and protected."



Project WET participants await a turn to make a bracelet with color beads representing different stages in the water cycle.



Project WET participants work together on The Long Haul, a relay race to transport 20 gallons of water the old fashioned way – bucket by bucket.



The Nestlé Waters North America Team at California Project WET's 2002 "Make a Splash" festival.