LOCAL NEWS

School water education program in full force at Dunnell Nature Center

By VALLEJO TIMES-HERALD | timesherald@dfmdev.com
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Solano County students will spend time this fall learning about their local water resources through hands-on science activities at the Dunnell Nature Park and Education Center in Fairfield.

Over 400 elementary students from Vallejo, Vacaville, Benicia, Dixon, Fairfield, Suisun City are scheduled to participate in the School Water Education Program (SWEP), run by the Solano Resource Conservation District. SWEP provides K-12 students water education with a focus on drinking water, stormwater and water conservation.

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Many teachers return to the program annually to participate, including Dixon Montessori Charter School, whose 4th grade classes have been participating in the SWEP Dunnell Field Trip program for the past three years. On a sunny November morning, Dixon Montessori teachers Lara Perfecto and Mara Boggess looked on as student groups bustled from one learning station to the next. Lara Perfecto commented on their reason for returning each year to the program.

“It’s so important for students to get outside, and this field trip is entirely outdoors,” she said. “Students get to experience their watershed firsthand, and the conversations continue even after coming back to school, for days or even weeks after the field trip.”

In August 2024, Solano RCD will open their doors to their highly acclaimed Solano Institute training, which consists of three days of intensive workshops focused on Solano County water resources and open spaces. The training highlights the importance of preserving county open spaces and the complexity of the region’s water resources. SWEP provides some support for this program which is funded by the Solano County Orderly Growth Committee and Department of Water Resources.

Solano Resource Conservation District’s School Water Education Program is free to participating schools. Registration is currently open. This program is funded by the Solano County Water Agency, Cities of Vacaville, Fairfield, Suisun City, Vallejo, Benicia, Dixon and the Fairfield-Suisun Sewer District.

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