

Tulare County Office of Education

Jim Vidak, County Superintendent of Schools

May 1, 2003

MEDIA ALERT

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Tulare County Office of Education Announces:

Students will Celebrate Arbor Day at Mooney Grove Park

May 8, 2003 • 9:00 a.m. - 1:30 p.m. • Mooney Grove Park, Visalia

The Tulare County Office of Education (TCOE) has invited students in grades three through five and their teachers to participate in an Arbor Day celebration at Mooney Grove Park on May 8. Along with TCOE, the Tulare County Parks and Recreation Department and the Master Gardeners will present a fun-filled educational event for 370 students from eight Tulare County schools.

Traditionally, National Arbor Day is celebrated on the last Friday in April. Today, all 50 states celebrate Arbor Day, although the dates may vary in keeping with the local climate and best tree planting times (in California, Arbor Day generally falls between March 7 -14). This year, Tulare County schools will celebrate Arbor Day on May 8, so that the day's events will occur near Mother's Day and will allow students and teachers to unwind following a rigorous STAR testing schedule.

In addition to hands-on environmental lessons, tours and a scavenger hunt, each student will be given a tree seedling to take home and plant in celebration of Mother's Day. These tree seedlings

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were grown by students at TCOE's very own Clemmie Gill School of Science and Conservation (SCICON) for the purpose of replenishing the trees in our local environment.

Arbor Day is a nationally celebrated observance that encourages tree planting and tree care. "In Tulare County you don't have to look far to see the importance of trees to our region - aesthetically, agriculturally, and economically," says Tulare County Superintendent of Schools Jim Vidak.

"Students attending our Arbor Day celebration will gain hands-on experience in caring for, and planting of, trees. What's really great for the students is that they will be able to share that knowledge with their families when they plant their seedlings at home," Vidak remarks.

Master Gardeners will present three different workshops throughout the day for the students, who will also have the opportunity to tour the Tulare History Museum. The day will culminate with students from each school in attendance planting a tree within the park.

For more information about the Arbor Day event, contact TCOE's Science Instructional Consultant, Jonathan Janzen, at (559) 651-3043. You may also visit our website at www.tcoe.org.

TCOE

Rel. 16/03