

Tulare County Office of Education

Jim Vidak, County Superintendent of Schools

April 21, 2008

MEDIA ALERT

Contact: Robert Herman
Public Information Officer
(559) 733-6606 – office
(559) 303-8568 – cell

Tulare County Office of Education Announces:

Arbor Day Celebration at Mooney Grove Park

May 8, 2008 · 9:00 a.m. – 1:30 p.m. · Mooney Grove Park, Visalia

The Tulare County Arbor Day Celebration is a hands-on student event attended by over 800 third-, fourth-, and fifth-grade students from Tulare and Kings counties. Arbor Day helps students learn the importance and care of trees in our environment. Students who participate will experience environmental lessons within Mooney Grove Park. Local environmental experts conduct these fun-filled, activity-based lessons. Students will also get the opportunity to tour the Tulare County museum and learn about the rich history of our valley.

Students will plant a tree at Mooney Grove to help with the park's restoration efforts. Each student will not only learn how to properly plant trees, but will be given their very own seedling to take home and plant with their Mother in celebration of upcoming Mother's Day!

Teachers enjoy celebrating with their students and participating in the environmental lessons. Each teacher receives materials with information on trees and environmental education that aligns to California state science standards.

- more -

Tulare County Office of Education

Jim Vidak, County Superintendent of Schools

Page 2

Traditionally National Arbor Day – founded by J. Sterling Morton of Nebraska in 1872 – is celebrated on the last Friday in April. The Tulare County Arbor Day Celebration is held in early May to accommodate schools involved in the California STAR testing.

“In Tulare County, you don’t have to look far to see the importance of trees – as a source of oxygen, nuts and fruits, and shade in urban areas,” says Tulare County Superintendent of Schools Jim Vidak. “Students really enjoy Arbor Day and sharing with their families the seedling they can plant at home.”

For more information, contact Dr. Glenn Williams at glennw@ers.tcoe.org or call (559) 651-3047.

TCOE

Rel. 33/08