Who is the Migrant Child?

By Anna León and Shantall Porchia, Tulare County Migrant Education Program (MEP) staff and is a proponent of innovative educational practices, including Migrant Education. Frequent moves and unpredictable working hours, often face the challenges of having parents who work long and unpredictable hours, make frequent moves, lack transportation, and live in oppressive, sub-standard housing conditions. Although migrant families may qualify for social services or financial aid, Migrant Education Program (MEP) staff believe that they may not seek assistance. In spite of these conditions, children of migrant workers come to school with many assets upon which their academic education can be built.

Discontinuity of instruction is the major challenge in Migrant Education. Program needs and economic hardship create numerous educational challenges for the children of migrant farmworkers in the United States. Even so was the Migrant Education Program. The programs' outcome was to prepare students to be able to live outside the school years, he/she is less likely to graduate from high school, imagine, and to lead a life of a migrant child. Every time he/she moves, the child loses something.

By Mr. Vidak, Tulare County superintendent of schools

Journalism, impacting communities and lives of young writers

By Mr. Vidak, Tulare County superintendent of schools

For listening, speaking, reading and students to experience the purpose ofLea

Mr. Jim Vidak, Tulare County superintendent of schools is supportive of all of the Tulare County Office of Education programs and this includes Migrant Education. He expects excellence from his staff and is a proponent of innovative programs and support services. Migrant Education Journalism Project is such a program. Its innovative way in which it delivers quality Language Arts instruction to migrant students, grades 3–5, who are learning English. The program is designed to reduce the number of long-term English learners by encouraging migrant students to experience the purpose of listening, speaking, reading and writing well. In addition to his passion for education, Jim Vidak has a passion for agriculture. A Tulare County native and third generation farmer/ rancher, Mr. Vidak has been farming since his first job harvesting tomatoes and table grapes as a child. He later pursued his goal to become a teacher. He later became a principal, an administrator and, in 1991, Tulare County’s superintendent of schools. Having a 45-year career in education, Mr. Vidak never lost his connection to agriculture.

Mr. Vidak applauds the students in the Migrant Education Program for their Journalism Project and its focus on the drought. He knows firsthand the impact it has on farmers, ranchers and Tulare County school districts. On his own farm, Mr. Vidak has a 500-acre tomato and 50 acre cotton farm while reducing the size of his own herd because of the lack of grass; "the effect of drought is that there has been a decline in enrollment of some of our rural school districts, we have faced as quality families move outside Tulare County for employment,” said Mr. Vidak.

To read more about the effects of the drought on Tulare County school districts and farmers, see the stories beginning on this page.

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Most migrant workers tell long hours and earn low wages that frequently place them below the U.S. poverty line. Migrant children often face the challenges of having parents who work long and unpredictable hours, make frequent moves, lack transportation, and live in oppressive, sub-standard housing conditions. Although migrant families may qualify for social services or financial aid, Migrant Education Program (MEP) staff believe that they may not seek assistance. In spite of these conditions, children of migrant workers come to school with many assets upon which their academic education can be built.

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-saving water now can help us in the future. Did you know that there is a water institute located on the Fresno State campus that can help you with your water issues? The water institute is an organization that gets their ideas from community and helps people with their water issues by supporting with discovering water solving solutions. The web site where you can find more information about this topic is water.as.ucdavis.edu.

Mrs. Muller’s well went dry

By Donna Ramirez, Natali Geimer, and Alejandro Aguilar

What happens when a well goes dry? Mrs. Muller is a second grade teacher at Maple School in Tulare where we go to school. She lives in Tulare, out in the country. Her well dried up.

In the summer of 2015, Mrs. Muller’s well went dry. Before the well was dry, Mrs. Muller noticed the water pressure was low. Only a little water was coming out of the faucet. She had to drive into town to her sister’s house to do laundry and to take a shower. To flush the toilets, they used the family’s buckets of pool water. Since they could not water their lawn and plants they turned brown and dead. A well is when the ground water level is lower than the pipe. The pump cannot pull water up the well. Mrs. Muller’s well was dry. Mrs. Muller later saw the water they were excited to save water. The new well is 400 feet deep. Digging the well and putting in new equipment cost Mrs. Muller a lot of money.

When Mrs. Muller’s well went dry it was a difficult time for her family. Mrs. Muller and her family were out soon to do the well. Large machines were brought in and dug deep into the ground. It took 2 days of drilling before they hit water. The new well is 400 feet deep. Digging the well and putting in new equipment cost Mrs. Muller a lot of money.

A Fresno State experience

By Dalia Cortez Garcia

After I left Fresno State, I learned new ways to save water in this time of drought. I want to call the Water and Energy Technology Incubator at Fresno State, looking for answers to your water concerns, you might want to call the Water and Energy Technology Incubator or otherwise known as the Water Institute located on the Fresno State Campus.

By Yadira Santiago

Saving money and water

By Marco Torrez

Mr. Reagan’s sketch on what his front yard will look like after the xeriscape remodel.

How are we saving water in Tulare schools?

By Dr. Claire Gist

Putting in concrete instead of plants or grass is another good way to conserve water. If we have concrete, it will not use any water at all! Concrete may not look as good as landscaping, but we do save water. We can also use rock.

The Tulare City School District is changing the sprinkler systems to make them more effective. Not all of the schools have sprinkler systems that are up to date. Dr. Gist said doing this helps to conserve water. We asked Dr. Gist if the cost of our school’s food was affected by the drought. She said the school district has to pay more now because of this. Water is very important when all of our food and produce is processed. So the costs go up, when there is less water.

Now I know how the Tulare City School District is saving water. They are doing it in many different ways. I hope the drought doesn’t last much longer, but I know the school district is trying to help it in its own way.

My dad

By Marco Torrez

My dad is a landscape architect who works for a company called Legacy which is in Dinuba. He takes the pomegranates from the orchard and takes them to the packing house. He noticed the drought affects the pomegranates because less water means less production and smaller size. He also said that it means that they have to plant less in order to conserve water. He told me that he noticed the drought started affecting the pomegranates in 2013, because the trees were drying up and there were not as many pomegranates and smaller ones than the year before. Hopefully, next year there is not as worse case of a drought as this year.

By Regina Rosas 

The Incubator Water and Energy Technology Incubator

The Incubator Water and Energy Technology Incubator at Fresno State, water efficiency by observing the water practices of others. The valley is currently enduring a historic drought. It is estimated that we know about through research. The San Joaquin valley has been affected the most. Green stated that 2014 and 2015 were the two worst years. We are withstanding a D4 drought which is the worst drought possible. The drought in the valley is very important because we grow food for the entire country. We also need water for our trees because by losing landscape, we lose needed oxygen, and more dust is created. Furthermore, without landscape more heat is absorbed which allows us to keep cool. As a drought can cause trees to become dry, they can also affect our environment. In order to help save water at home, we can let the water run less time while brushing our teeth, or washing dishes and dish washers with full loads, and use water less for plants, and plants less. So next time you are looking for answers to your water concerns, you might want to call the Water and Energy Technology Incubator or otherwise known as the Water Institute located on the Fresno State Campus.

My ten-gallon tank: Dr. Claire Gist of the Tulare City School District discussing ways to conserve water.

He said that Fresno State products, will save a lot of water. I want to try to save water so that I can conserve as much as I can. Another reason we went to the college, is to gather information for our journalism work. We took notes so that we could write to the water expert gave us. He was a very smart person! He said that Fresno State is a leader in saving water. This course uses many different ways to save water in this time of drought. They are a model for other schools and colleges to save water.

A Fresno State experience

By Regina Rosas and Marco Torrez

Do you want to lower your water bill? Mr. Reagan, is the Biological Coordinator for Tulare City School District, and his wife decided to go green and support water management by water harvesting. Water harvesting is a process where rain water is collected and stored for landscape irrigation and other uses. Mr. Reagan decided to go green after reading a book by a man who lived in Africa. The book explained how water harvest- ing works. Mr. Reagan read a book on how to build his own sustainable farm. Mr. Reagan read that it is very important to establish the important aspects of knowledge regarding what to do and not to do for water harvesting.

Regina and Marco visit the Water and Energy Technology Incubator at Fresno State.

Mr. Reagan then began his water saving project in his backyard as a trial in order to decide if he would like it. Also, he was doing the project by himself, he doesn’t need anyone to look. He decided to conserve water by putting it in syrinxum or artificial grass. Although the project in his backyard turned out great and allowed him to conserve water, he didn’t like the fact that it got too hot to walk on in the summer and he was afraid that gophers would eat through it and damage his work. Mr. Reagan started that it cost him 1,000 dollars for the syrinxum, but it has saved him a lot of money on his water bill because of Mr. Reagan’s concerns syrinxum in his back yard, he decided to try the xeriscape design in his front yard. Although Mr. Reagan is just in the planning stages of his xeriscape front lawn project, his research has assured him that he will continue to save water as well as a lot of money on his water bill in the future. If you want to lower your water bill, you might give xeriscape a try.
How the drought affects grapevines

By Laura González

On November 30, 2015, I interviewed my mom, Maria Torres. She works in Delano cutting leaves off of grapevines. She works for eight hours a day doing this. I interviewed her so I can know how the drought affected her job since I have been researching the drought in my after-school program. She mentioned that it needs to rain because it’s still too dry. She wondered if there is some- thing she can do boxes to do save water. She stated that her boss never told her to do anything to conserve water but she did say that her boss is taking down the vines and replacing them with other crops. My mom also said there is less jobs since the drought.

From research, I learned that California is in 4th year in a drought. Most of California’s water is in the northern part of the state. In the Central Valley, farmers have to buy their water. Miss Corona Coats from Tulare County Farm Bureau told me this when she visited our class and also told us that farmers plan for their water needs and have good manag- ers. I hope the rain keeps coming so we won’t be in a drought.

Alexandre started off by asking the students what Tulare schools are trying to use less water. Dr. Gist told us that she was meeting with an irrigation specialist and they are thinking about using plants that need less water. Dr. Gist talked about using native plants and rocks for landscaping since they do not use any water at all. Tulare City School District has been using less wa- ter since the city of Tulare put limits on how much water that can be used. Dr. Gist and her husband farms Figure 1 has been farming for more than 25 years and has personally been affected by the drought. She and her husband put in space 2 wells in the past year. She talked about how people have to wait a long time to get someone to come out and drill the well. Farming is always hard, farmers have to spend a lot of money to get the water back after selling what they grew or raised. When algae grows in the food in the cafeteria costs the school money to buy. Dr. Gist said yes everything is costing more of California is in a drought, the company we found that if they drill the water it will need to get the stuff together to make a ham- burger. We did not know so she said that we should find out. After doing some research on the internet we found out that it takes about 3,500 gallons of wa- ter to make every hamburger. Drought increases the dust in the air. This is bad because it can also bring dust in your eyes. You eyes can get red and wa- ter. Some students have asthma so the dust in the air makes it hard for them to breathe. When asked if Tulare City School District has “Dust Days” Dr. Gist said that there is a flag and announcement system. A black flag is hung up the flag- pole each day in a color that tells you how the air is. Level 1 is the color green and means the air is good. Level 2 is the color yellow and means the air is moder- ate (just ok), Level 3 is the color orange and means the air is unhealthy for sensi- tive groups (students that have asthma should not run too much) and Level 4 is the color red and the air is unhealthy. Level 5 is the color purple and the worst, it is unhealthy for healthy. (From TCSD website we found this air quality information). If the air gets too bad during the day, Mrs. Brown our Prin- cipal at Maple School will be told and she will send emails to the teachers. If we are not able to go outside we have PE inside doing stuff like Adventure Fitness or Just Dance. From Dr. Gist we learned that Tulare City Schools are not dealing with the drought. Tulare City schools are con- certing and rocks being used to decorate the landscape instead of plants because they are not alive. Everyone is affected by the drought including the 15 schools in Tulare City School District.

How Tulare schools are dealing with the drought

By Laura González, Natasha González, and Mr. Felix's farm has no well on it, so he has to buy his water. We interviewed Mr. Felix and asked him about the effects of the drought on his farm. Mr. Felix is from Tulare, California. He owns farmland in Tulare County Farm Bureau. Mr. Felix’s farm is in the business of growing olives. The drought has not only affected Mr. Felix’s farm, but also the packing house he sells his olives to. Mr. Felix’s farm has no well on it, so he depends on a direct water delivery. He receives his water from the Friant- Kern Channel through the Lincoln Stram by Irrigation District. The effect of the drought has caused the water they have to go down by around 20 percent. Without enough water to provide for their trees, it has caused them to stop producing olives. Mr. Felix has lost the income that the olives earned, but he will still try to pay. Without fruit to deliver to the packing house, along with other farmers in the same situation, workers at the packing house are being laid off due to the lack of fruit to process. This created a problem for a lot of people involved. This is known as the trickle-down effect because it affects the other groups. Some people are doing is to keep plants and trees alive. If there was no vegetation the less dust there is, less dust and things are hot. We need to be careful not to over water and waste water. Mr. Sarge Green told us about the drought. He received a grant from Fresno State how to conserve water in different ways. We had a lot of questions and he told us information that we can learn from and share our part with others.

How the drought affects regular workers

By Karen Roque

I interviewed my mom Luana Roque on November 3, 2015. I wanted to know how the drought affects her life.

My mom Luana Roque works at Harris Ranch. It is 15 miles away from Tulare. She washes meat for eight hours a day. If meat is not sani- tized it makes people sick. My mom washes the meat with water, just with a knife. If water gets on the meat it will contaminate the meat. So, workers use a broom to remove skin from the meat. Luana told me that she washes a big, long spoon to protect her clothes. Workers at Harris Ranch used to use a lot of water to clean off the blood and small pieces of meat off their aprons. Since we are dealing with a drought, the company now uses thinner hoses to conserve water. It is harder to clean off her apron and she brings extra clothes. My mom now gets shorter hours at work because of the drought. Even though my mom now gets shorter hours at work it doesn’t affect me, I still get shoes and clothes. But I don’t always get fun clothes that I really want. That is how the drought affects my family.

California drought: farmer thinks smarter about water

By By Indre González, Natasha González, and Karen Roque

What most farmers do in a drought? “Think smarter of course!” Steve Wilbur a local farmer and dairyman with drip irrigation system that some farmers use. Mr. Wilbur also saves water at his dairy by reusing and recycling his water. He prevents the water to keep his mil- k, and then he will wash the cows with the water. Next, he said he uses the water to flush the lances, many times the dairy water is used to irrigate his fields. That is how farmers conserve water more often and efficiently. You can see that farmers do not farm water waste. When a farmer waters a smart, he will “Get more crop per drop”.

By Laura González, Natasha González, and Mr. Felix

We interviewed Mr. Felix at Roosevelt Elementary School in Tulare, California. Mr. Felix owns farmland in Lincoln County. Mr. Felix is in the business of growing olives. The drought has not only affected Mr. Felix’s farm, but also the packing house he sells his olives to. Mr. Felix’s farm has no well on it, so he depends on a direct water delivery. He receives his water from the Friant- Kern Channel through the Lincoln Stram by Irrigation District. The effect of the drought has caused the water they have to go down by around 20 percent. Without enough water to provide for their trees, it has caused them to stop producing olives. Mr. Felix has lost the income that the olives earned, but he will still try to pay. Without fruit to deliver to the packing house, along with other farmers in the same situation, workers at the packing house are being laid off due to the lack of fruit to process. This created a problem for a lot of people involved. This is known as the trickle-down effect because it affects the other groups. Some people are doing is to keep plants and trees alive. If there was no vegetation the less dust there is, less dust and things are hot. We need to be careful not to over water and waste water. Mr. Sarge Green told us about the drought. He received a grant from Fresno State how to conserve water in different ways. We had a lot of questions and he told us information that we can learn from and share our part with others.

How the drought affects one of Tulare’s principal

By Juan Oliveros

Mr. Felix is a principal at Roosevelt Elementary School in Tulare, California. Mr. Felix owns farmland in Lindsay, California. Mr. Felix is in the business of growing olives. The drought has not only affected Mr. Felix’s farm, but also the packing house he sells his olives to. Mr. Felix’s farm has no well on it, so he depends on a direct water delivery. He receives his water from the Friant- Kern Channel through the Lincoln Stram by Irrigation District. The effect of the drought has caused the water they have to go down by around 20 percent. Without enough water to provide for their trees, it has caused them to stop providing olives. Mr. Felix has lost the income that the olives earned, but he will still try to pay. Without fruit to deliver to the packing house, along with other farmers in the same situation, workers at the packing house are being laid off due to the lack of fruit to process. This created a problem for a lot of people involved. This is known as the trickle-down effect because it affects the other groups. Some people are doing is to keep plants and trees alive. If there was no vegetation the less dust there is, less dust and things are hot. We need to be careful not to over water and waste water. Mr. Sarge Green told us about the drought. He received a grant from Fresno State how to conserve water in different ways. We had a lot of questions and he told us information that we can learn from and share our part with others.

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From research, I learned that California is in 4th year in a drought. Most of California’s water is in the northern part of the state. In the Central Valley, farmers have to buy their water. Miss Corona Coats from Tulare County Farm Bureau told me this when she visited our class and also told us that farmers plan for their water needs and have good manag- ers. I hope the rain keeps coming so we won’t be in a drought.
Developing a college-going culture

In conjunction with the Roger Ottemoeller and Mr. Michael We spoke with Mr. Stephen H. Ottemoeller of the Friant Dam, engineer and director of operations, and Mr. Michael Wolfe, Supervisory Hydrologist. Mr. Ottemoeller told us, “The Friant Dam is a massive wall that blocks the San Joaquin River.” It is designed to last 500 years. Friant Dam helps prevent flooding of the river. Even though the Friant Dam creates many uses for the water stored behind it, it gives water to farmers as far as Bakersfield and to cities along the San Joaquin River. Because of the drought, less acres have received water. On October 20, 2015 the migrant journalism class visited Friant Dam. They spoke with Mr. Stephen Ottemoeller, engineer and director of operations, and Mr. Michael Wolfe, Supervisory Hydrologist. Technicians. Mr. Ottemoeller told us, “The Friant Dam is a massive wall that blocks the San Joaquin River.” It is designed to last a long time: “The dam is triangle shaped and about a mile long at the top.”

The Friant Dam blocks the San Joaquin River for good. Friant Dam creates Millerton Lake and helps create many uses for the water stored behind it. It gives water to farmers as far as Bakersfield and to cities along the Friant-Kern Canal. Because of the drought, less acres have received water. On October 20, 2015 the migrant journalism class visited Friant Dam. They spoke with Mr. Stephen Ottemoeller, engineer and director of operations, and Mr. Michael Wolfe, Supervisory Hydrologist. Technicians. Mr. Ottemoeller told us, “The Friant Dam is a massive wall that blocks the San Joaquin River.” It is designed to last a long time: “The dam is triangle shaped and about a mile long at the top. low some of the water to travel into huge tubes through the dam. As the water exits the dam, it helps power turbines that create electricity for Fresno. Once it comes out of the hydroelectric station it flows into either the Friant-Kern Canal during the summer or it goes down the river where it helps keep wildlife alive. Some of the water that goes through the dam goes into the Friant-Kern Canal and is used to water crops as far south as Bakersfield, and part of the water is even used by the cities of Orange and Lindsay for their water supply. Because of the drought the water level is at historical low. Friant Dam helps prevent floods down the river. Even though the Friant Dam can block the San Joaquin River forever, the water needs to pass through some big tunnels and go down the San Joaquin River.

The Friant Dam also creates a lake behind it and some of this stored water goes down the Friant-Kern Canal as well. The Friant Dam also provides water for about 800,000 acres of crops, but because of the drought this number is greatly reduced. The Friant Dam is not getting enough water because it needs a lot of people from different places, different backgrounds, and learn a lot of different things. It is nice to meet another place, so you get to learn from their experiences and they get to learn from yours. When you go to college you learn a lot of amazing things. Her parents did not have money to pay for college. Her parents worked in the fields and she worked in the fields. She had to use the extra money for college, and by having good grades. “If you have good grades people will pay you to go to college, not that amazing!” exclaimed Dr. Medina. People tell her that she had potential and that she could go to college. If you study and work hard you can go to college too. We learned from her that you need to try and believe in yourself, don’t give up and always do your best.

The Friant Dam: A massive wall for good

The Friant Dam produces a lot of energy. “I love math and helping others.” She works at Cal Poly as a mathematics Professor. She has good grades people will pay you to go to college, not that amazing! exclaimed Dr. Medina. People tell her that she had potential and that she could go to college. If you study and work hard you can go to college too. We learned from her that you need to try and believe in yourself, don’t give up and always do your best.

Expensive water

How would you like to wake up one day with no water coming from your shower? Well, Mrs. Muller, a 2nd grade teacher at Maple School, had her water supply go dry. Mr. Calviño’s Migrant Journalism class decided to interview Mrs. Muller to find out why this happened. Mrs. Muller’s well went dry because her water level was so low. This happened because of the drought. When she was given enough rain. So, she had to buy a new well. When she found out she had to pay $25,000 dollars for a new well, she and her husband were not very happy! I wouldn’t be either! Then, she did not get her well for a long time. She had to wait to have the water supply from a new well. Poor Mrs. Muller!! She had to use her pool to take showers. She had to take her laundry out to the river to wash it. Even flushing her toilet was a problem. Even flushing her toilet was a problem. I wouldn’t be either! Then, she did not get her well for a long time. She had to wait to have the water supply from a new well. Poor Mrs. Muller!! She had to use her pool to take showers. She had to take her laundry out to the river to wash it. Even flushing her toilet was a problem.

The Friant Dam really important?

On Tuesday, October 20, 2015 Engineer Stephen H. Ottemoeller of the Friant Dam, in Fresno, told the migrant students of Pixley Elementary that the Friant Canal begins in Fresno and ends in Bakersfield. The Friant Canal is used by many Central Valley farmers. The Friant Canal, which is located in Fresno, is where the Friant Dam begins. The Canal delivers Central Valley farmers with water to use on their farms. The problem is the water supply is low. Stephen H. Ottemoeller is an Engineer for the Friant Dam. He is in charge of keeping everything at the dam running smoothly. Mr. Ottemoeller says that farmers are getting water, but not the same amount as they used to. The low amount of water means that farmers are not growing the same amount of crops as they once were. The Friant Dam is not getting enough water because it has less water due to no rain and all of the dam’s capacity. Friant Dam is not getting enough water because it has less water due to no rain and all of the dam’s capacity. Friant Dam is not getting enough water because it has less water due to no rain and all of the dam’s capacity. Friant Dam is not getting enough water because it has less water due to no rain and all of the dam’s capacity.

Mentioned in the article are the recent drought conditions that have reduced the water levels in many parts of California. The drought has affected many farmers in the Central Valley. It has led to a decrease in the amount of water available for irrigation. Some farmers have been able to continue their operations with the water they have, while others have had to decrease their production or even cease operations entirely. The drought has also had a significant impact on the regional economy, with many businesses and industries relying on water for their operations. The Friant Dam is an important component of the Central Valley water system because it helps maintain the water supply, ensuring that farmers can continue to grow crops and meet the needs of the region. As the water levels continue to decline, it is crucial that actions are taken to conserve water and mitigate the effects of the drought. The Friant Dam, with its crucial role in the regional water supply, serves as a reminder of the importance of water conservation and the need for continued efforts to address the challenges posed by drought conditions. The Friant Dam is a reminder of the interdependence of the region’s water resources and the need for cooperation and coordination among stakeholders to ensure sustainable water management in the face of changing climatic conditions.
Threaten water away, save it for another day!

By Jessica Flores, Jonathon Flores, Adolfo Becerra, Maria Valentina Harrington, Cesario Servin Cruz and Monserrat Lancenga

The drought is getting worse and worse as we waste water. Dr. Francis Villalba and Dr. Lola Berber-Jimenez from Cal Poly talked to us about the drought that started four years ago. "If it's yellow, let it mellow. If it's brown, flush it down," is a new saying we learned from them. We face about the drought that started four years ago. We have less rain and we wasted water instead of storing it and saving it.

The drought affects crops and people are losing their jobs. Two winters ago the crops were affected because of the lack of water and now the food cost more. People used the water and did not treat or store enough. The drought affects people with less money the most because now food cost more. Small communities like Tipton have less water; they have a smaller water source. Los Angeles is being affected less because they have a water facility and the Rocky Mountains. Another effect according to Dr. Villalba is that there are 79% less animals in his area now, all because of the drought. He has been tracking them with his students. The drought is affecting every living thing!

Here are some solutions to help us save water. One solution Dr. Villablanca says was to use his washing machine water to water his plants. He takes 9 buckets and fills them with water and then carry them to his plants. A second solution is a dehydration plant that could take away the salt from the water and then make it drinkable. This is expensive, but Dr. Lola Berber-Jimenez says they are working on new technology. The new technology will help reduce the cost just like solar energy is reducing the cost of electricity. Another thing we can do is recycle, this will help keep the earth clean and help with energy costs too. One last thing that Dr. Villablanca said to us was, "Think about it, recognize that you are using water and ask yourself, what can I do to use less?"

Dr. Villablanca is answering our questions and Issels about all the effects of the drought.

By Ernst Rojas, Juan M. Vazquez, Francisco Rivas, Luis Moreno, Marco Sanchez, Ulises Morales, Nayeli Mornon and Jose Carranza

On Thursday, October 22, 2015, we visited Mr. Mike Carlisle, Director of Farming for Paramount Farms in Delano, California, who stated that there is less water available for the Halo and other citrus. Paramount is the largest grower of mandarins, which are marketed as Halos. They are a sweet, seedless, easy peel citrus marketed as Halos. They are a sweet, seedless, easy peel citrus. Baby trees use 4-6 inches of water per week, and old trees use 10 times more than the baby trees, or about 40 inches of water per week. The drought affected the people that work at Paramount in a positive way. Employees are given more hours to work, which means they can make more money. Additional hours are for workers to water citrus crops on Friday and Sundays.

Dr. Villablanca included a movie and a presentation about the Halo packing facility. We learned that this plant is the largest packing house in the world, covering more area than three football fields. Because we were not old enough, we could not visit the plant. Not only did Mr. Carlisle give us facts about his company and the drought, he also gave us backpacks filled with promotional gifts.

After visiting the Delano facility, we understood more about how the drought affects our families in the Central Valley.

Do you think Paramount could go out of business?

By Alejandro Sanchez Ortiz

I did an interview with a business owner named Seth Brown. We discussed how the drought is affecting his family’s business California Turf and Equipment. He told us that the business is divided into three sections. 1. Landscape and maintenance 2. Equipment sales 3. Retail Nursery.

Mr. Brown said that all three parts are being affected differently. The landscape and maintenance section has been affected by losing new landscape installation. The maintenance has been cut because of people watering less or not watering at all. Some clients have lawn dying and even plants and trees. "There is no money in taking care of dirt," said Mr. Brown.

The equipment division is losing money because other laws are more attractive. Companies and private homeowners are not buying as much new equipment or choosing to replace used equipment. They are focusing on getting it being repaired. There is much more money in new sales than in repairs.

The third part of the business is the nursery. It has also felt the effect of the drought. Other lawn companies in private home owners have really cut back on buying plants and other related materials.

Mr. Brown, "We are hoping to hang on until this whole drought thing is behind us. We have lost all the water we have received so far is a real good sign?"

Pixley Migrant students visit Friant Dam

By Leonardo Mendoza, Ivan Carrillo, Hector Mondragon, Sammona, Cristal Sanchez, Stephanie Zapier, Danny Ortega, Isabella Sanchez and Andy Moreno

On October 20, 2015, Palmer Student Observer viewed Stephen Ottomller, Water Resources Manager, of the Friant Water Authority Resources, near Millerton Lake, Fresno, CA.

The third grade students of Mrs. Vareen’s Migrant class joined the fourth grade Migrant class of Mrs. Garcia and fifth Migrant class of Mrs. Montelon at Friant Dam near Millerton Lake. Ms. Ottomoller said, “Take short showers and use bucket s to wash cars if you cannot to commercial car washing areas!”

We get all the water we use from only two places: on the ground and under the ground. Water on the ground are called lakes, rivers, streams and oceans. We get water from snow, rain, snow and hail. Only about 1/3 of the water ends up in rivers, lakes and streams. They are used up by trees, plants and animals, or soak into the ground and evaporate. We get the water out through wells drilled into the ground. Electric pumps pull the water up to the surface. We use it for agriculture, crops, people, and animals. We also use water for homes, business industry and public services. We use it for plants, fish, and other animals.

California has almost had drought because of long dry periods without much rain or snow. The longest drought in California lasted for 60 years. People had to use less water. We now have water meters. If we use more than our share of water, we pay more money. If we waste water, we have to replace it. Mr. Carlisle gave us many facts about his company and the drought. Here are some solutions to help us save water. One solution Dr. Villablanca says was to use his washing machine water to water his plants. He takes 9 buckets and fills them with water and then carry them to his plants. A second solution is a dehydration plant that could take away the salt from the water and then make it drinkable. This is expensive, but Dr. Lola Berber-Jimenez says they are working on new technology. The new technology will help reduce the cost just like solar energy is reducing the cost of electricity. Another thing we can do is recycle, this will help keep the earth clean and help with energy costs too. One last thing that Dr. Villablanca said to us was, "Think about it, recognize that you are using water and ask yourself, what can I do to use less?"

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Meet Our Journalists

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

It takes huge effort to implement new educational projects such as the Migrant Education Journalism Project. We couldn’t have done it without the support of visionary leaders: Jim Vidak, Tulare County Superintendent of Schools; Celina Torres, Migrant Education State Director; committed professors, resilient teachers, patient and understanding interviewees, parents and other dynamic support staff. This project was invaluable to Migrant children and we believe that it was a success.

Our Migrant children thank all of you and appreciate you taking the time to lend a helping hand. As a result of everyone’s efforts, we may see these students as future journalists.