



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Students Improve Campus Through Science Study & Outdoor Learning Exploration *Schools plant trees for Arbor Day, and others win the Cal Water H2O Classroom Challenge*

Chico, CA – Chico Unified students take their new science curriculum from the books to the outdoor classroom as they delve into science and environmental exploration.

Arbor Day Partnership

Students from Parkview Elementary, Rosedale Elementary and Neal Dow Elementary have partnered with Butte Environmental Council to plant new trees on their school campus. The students will work with tree experts from the Trees PLEASE program to learn about native plants in our area, tree maintenance and then plant new trees on their school campus.

Three schools are participating in this great program:

- Parkview Elementary (four trees), 4/29/22
- Rosedale Elementary (five trees), 5/10/22
- Neal Dow Elementary (five trees), 5/17/22

Cal Water H2O Classroom Challenge Awards

Each year Cal Water hosts a project-based, environmentally-focused competition for classrooms in grades 4-6. This year, three of our fifth-grade classrooms placed in the State's Top 5 winners.

Congratulations to our winning classrooms:

- Second Place – Sierra View Elementary School (Ms. Emily Akimoto's Classroom)
- Third Place – Little Chico Creek Elementary School (Ms. Kristin Thomas' Classroom)
- Fifth Place – Parkview Elementary School (Ms. Tami Janos' Classroom)

Each winning classroom received a class grant, and students received award certificates.

Classroom Projects

- In April, Ms. Batista's class took a field trip to the Butte County Ecological Preserve. They learned about the area's medicinal and poisonous plants and how fires impact our environment.
- Rosedale Elementary students in Ms. Krizia Garcia's class used science to calculate their carbon footprint. They helped organize a campus-wide cleanup!
- Chico Junior High School science students explored the Butte Creek Ecologic Preserve and learned about plant identification, fire ecology and water health testing. Another science class took a field trip to Big Chico Creek for watershed monitoring and databased development.

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Additional Resource Links:

- Cal Water H2O Classroom Challenge: <https://challenge.calwater.com/about>
- New Science textbook adoption: At the May 6, 2020, Board of Education Meeting, The Board approved the adoption of the Amplify Science textbook for grades TK-8. The textbook adoption included an e-license for each student that can be used to support online engagement learning opportunities.