

Collecting, preserving and
interpreting the history
of the Los Altos area.

August 25, 2011

Dear Principal and 5th Grade Teachers,

We are fortunate to have a new temporary exhibit at the Los Altos History Museum, *Shaped by Water: Past, Present and Future*. The Exhibit tells the story of how water shaped the history of the Santa Clara Valley and how our use of water will shape our future. The exhibit will be on view for only 7 months at the Los Altos History Museum from October 6, 2011 - April 15, 2012 with the goal of educating the community while inspiring appreciation and action.

Below is an introduction and outline for a 5th grade field trip, offered January through March 2012. We are proposing 2 morning time slots (9:00-10:30, 10:45-12:15), one class per time slot. The field trip content can be modified to emphasize certain lessons for the teacher. We have included hands-on activities and games to engage children and solidify lessons. We are very excited about the rich interdisciplinary content of the exhibit and its potential to educate our children. The History Museum appreciates your support for this important educational exhibit.

The exhibit will explore the role of water through five phases of history:

1. The indigenous people, the Ohlone tribes, and their intimate relationship to water.
 - Tule reed hut & basket
 - Tribal boundaries and migrations within the watersheds
 - Ceremonies related to water
2. The era of the Spanish, Mexicans and westward American migration who created irrigation ditches and dug artesian wells for ranching and agriculture.
 - Artesian well diorama
 - Missions, agriculture & rancheros, economic drivers
3. The Valley of Heart's Delight
 - Expansion of agriculture and horticulture
 - New industries support local development (water powered grist mills, local water companies)
 - Santa Clara Valley Water History Game (Project WET)
4. Silicon Valley and the present day with the development of large scale infrastructure such as dams, aqueducts, waste water treatment plants and the state and federal water projects.
 - LED map of water sources in California; dams, aqueducts and policies
 - Waste water treatment aeration & fresh water treatment filter demonstrations
 - Measuring scale of water used to produce food (how many gallons required to produce a pound of different foods)
 - Artwork showing pollution in our waterways made from plastic found on local beaches.
 - Water cycle - Incredible Journey Game (Project WET)

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The Los Altos History Museum's
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Los Altos Historical Museum;
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5. A view to the future and new ways to conserve and re-use the limited resource of water and restore our watershed.

- Rain containment & greywater demonstrations
- Population and climate change discussion
- Water conservation and watershed restoration spin-the-wheel
- Demonstration of fish ladder
- "Who pollutes the bay?" hands-on lesson (Project WET)

Fifth Grade Standards met:

History/Social Studies 5.1.1, 5.1.2, 5.3.1, 5.3.2, 5.3.4, 5.8.5, 5.8.6

Language Arts/ Listening & Speaking 1.1, 1.2, Reading Comprehension 2.1

Sciences/ Earth Science 3.a, 3.b, 3.c, 3.d, 3.e, 4.b

If you are interested in a field trip, please contact me by phone or email. Thank you!

Aja Sorensen

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