

ALL AND SUNDRY

Pacific lamprey is a little friend near you

By Max Hernandez-Velasquez

HERITAGE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

Hello. Did you know that there's a native eel in the Mokelumne River? Many residents of Lodi don't even know this, or have even heard of the eel.

For those of you who have never heard about the eel, it is called the Pacific lamprey, and it grows to be 30 inches long. When it's an adult, its diet consists of salmon, flatfish, rockfish and many other marine animals. Their lifespan in the wild is eight years and they are native to North America. The

species name is Petromyzontidae. They latch onto their prey with their needle-like sharp teeth. They have a pair of fins, an anterior dorsal fin, the posterior fin and the caudal fin. Their body also has eyes, a nostril, a buccal tunnel with its teeth, and external gill slits. The adults are a bluish-black, or greenish above and completely pale underneath.

Pacific lamprey spend most of their life as larvae and live in the freshwater environment for several years. After the larvae become juveniles or adults they no longer have jaws and are considered jawless. This gives them the ability to suck on salmon or

other marine animals and feed off of them. They live for one or two years in the ocean and then they will return to freshwater to spawn. Then, when they lay eggs they build a nest, or a redd, in tiny gravel. The female Pacific lamprey can lay up to 100,000 eggs!

In many ways they are like the salmon because they both are euryhaline, which means they can survive in both fresh and saltwater. They are also alike because their life cycles are practically the same. And now you know about a very tiny fella that might live in a river near you!

Visiting the Mokelumne River Fish Hatchery on a field trip

By Samuel Jewell

LOCKEFORD ELEMENTARY

Last fall in 2019, our second-grade class got to go to the Mokelumne River Fish Hatchery. We rode on the school bus with our teacher Mrs. Gilbert and Mr. Rogers, the principal of Lockeford School. We got to see salmon swim upstream and jump up the fish ladder. We also saw the workers through the windows: they were milting the males and taking the eggs out of the females in order to fertilize the eggs. There were MILLIONS of them! Later we got 35 eggs delivered to our classroom. We put them in a fish tank to watch them grow. Then we went back to the river and let them go free.

The grossest part of the field tri was when we got to hold a sac of eggs. They felt so slimy and they were cold. The coolest part was when the tour guide let us go in the deep freezer — you won't believe what we saw!



KATIE MANIES/MILLSWOOD MIDDLE SCHOOL

What are lampreys?

By Emma Starr

VINEWOOD ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

Lampreys are ancient fish that have no jaws! They suck onto everything they can. They stick onto other fish to suck their blood

for food and travel around the ocean. Lampreys are meant to be there because they are native fish. At the Mokelumne River a lamprey sucked onto my hand! It tickled but it didn't hurt. In my opinion lampreys are awesome fish!



COURTESY PHOTOGRAPH

Joey Richle poses for a photo with his giant cabbage plant.

My AgVenture cabbage plant

By Joey Richle

LAKEWOOD ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

My teacher Mrs. Milligan took our third-grade class from Lakewood Elementary

to AgVenture. There we learned that plants grow with water and sunlight. Every day I watered my cabbage. As it grows you can see layers and you can eat the middle.

GET INVOLVED WITH THE MOKELUMNE CURRENT

Every year, classes that participate in the City of Lodi Watershed Program and Storm Drain Detectives put together the Mokelumne Current. To get involved, interested teachers may call program coordinator Kathy Grant at 209-333-6878 or email kgrant@lodi.gov.

To see past editions of the Mokelumne Current, visit lodieei.wordpress.com.

EARTH

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 5

regular trash cans. They will fall out of the garbage trucks and end up in the oceans.

It is also good to recycle because there are animals suffering and dying because people don't take the time that it takes to recycle. For example, whales, turtles, fish and more think that plastic is food so they eat it and plastic is not edible. Others get stuck in nets or plastic. Because we don't recycle, it can affect other living things other than ourselves.

Thursday: How can you teach people about the environment?

There are many ways to teach someone about the environment. One way to teach someone about the environment is to watch a video about the environment. A video could teach a person a lot about the topic of the video.

You can actually teach a person about the environment yourself with the facts you know. Like when you talk about an environment, tell the person what you know, like animals that live there, or flowers, plants or crops that live there, or what the weather is usually like.

Another way you can teach a person about the environment by reading books about your environment. Books help us in many ways. One can be by learning about your environment.

My last way to teach a person about the environment is by actually experiencing what it is to live in that. Those are my ways to teach someone

about the environment.

Friday: What are some ways that you and your family could reduce and reuse?

One way we can reduce is by using less of something. A way of how we can reduce something is all the fruits and vegetables that we get at the store we can grow ourselves. That way we can reduce all the plastic that we get when we buy fruits and vegetables.

Another way I can reduce plastic in my house is to not buy as many plastic water bottles. My family and I have a big reusable gallon of water that almost always contains water. Every time we run out of water in that gallon we refill it.

One way we reuse is when we have leftover food, we store it in empty food buckets. Another way you can reuse is all the plastic bags we get when we go to the store. We reuse them as garbage bags. Gift bags we get we reuse to give gifts to other people. Those are some ways me and my family reuse and reduce.

'Trees are like family because we need them!'

By Yaneisy Roman Ortiz

HERITAGE ELEMENTARY

Monday: Why do we need to take care of the Earth?

Based on what I know, we need to take care of the Earth because without Earth we would not be alive. We need Earth. For example, if we don't take care of the water on Earth we will not survive. We need that water

to drink, plant crops and take showers. Also if we don't take the time to have plentiful soil on Earth, how are we going to grow crops, fruit and everything we eat? Without food we wouldn't be able to survive either.

Without water we can't grow trees! What do we use trees for? A lot of things, for example: paper, houses, pencils, maple syrup, candy wrappers, chewing gum, rubber and sponges. The bark of trees that we grow with water could be used for dyes and medicine, and the leaves and roots create oils that makes cosmetics and medicine.

Tuesday: What do you love most about nature?

What I love most about nature is the trees. It is really interesting to see how long they been alive and investigate how many more years it will live. They are super big and help us with our lives. Even though some people just see trees as not that important, without trees we wouldn't be alive. Trees make lots of things including oxygen, which we need to survive. Trees are like family because we need them! My favorite tree is the oak tree!

Wednesday: Why is it important to recycle?

It's important to recycle because if we don't recycle it could cause pollution. If we recycle it could help the environment from trash. Also, if we recycle that saves energy which reduces gas emissions, which helps to not change the climate.

If we don't recycle the oceans or rivers would be

full of trash. How does not recycling not help us and anything around us? If we don't recycle the rivers or driveways and oceans would be full of trash. That affects us and things around us because if the water is full of trash that will destroy animals home. With that, animals could get extinct.

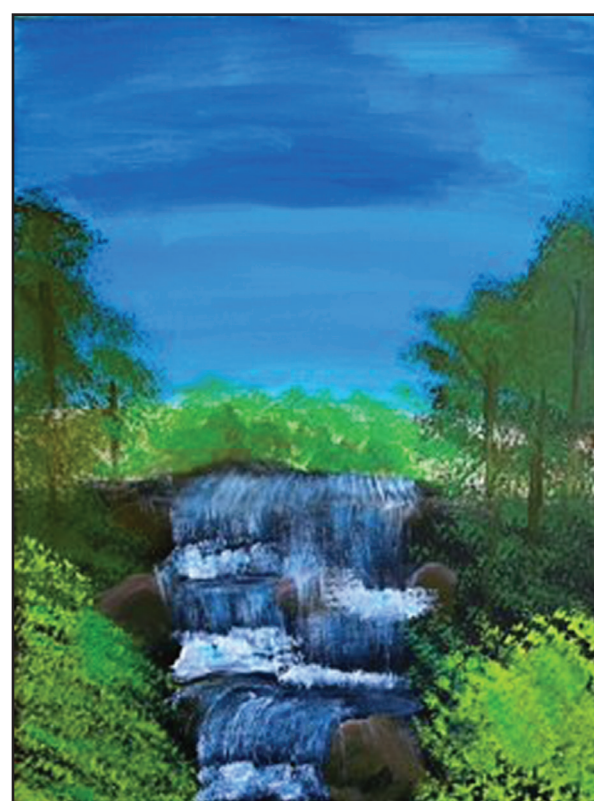
For the driveway, that would affect us because all the trash there is could cause things in the air which would cause pollution which is not good for us.

Thursday: How can you teach people about the environment?

I can teach people about the environment by doing lots of things. One way i could help teach about the environment maybe could be by writing about the environment and how to protect it and the Mokelumne River. Another way i could help teach is by going outside and seeing how clean the environment is. Also, we could join a club that teaches us about the environment. The environment is where we live so it would be interesting if we learned about our environment.

Friday: What are some ways that you and your family could reduce and reuse?

Some ways my family could reduce and reuse is in many ways. For example, instead of using plastic bottles we could use reusable water bottles, so then we don't use as much plastic. When we go shopping it's better to use bags of material than plastic bags. If we reuse and reduce it will help Earth a lot.



JAIDA GAO/ELKHORN SCHOOL

Alevin Haiku

*Alevin, small fish
Camouflaging in the rocks
They hatched from an egg*



YAHIR GOMEZ GONZALEZ/HERITAGE