



Midpeninsula Regional
Open Space District

For Immediate Release

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MROSD helps local schools connect children to nature

Los Altos, California [August 5, 2009]–The Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District is helping connect children and nature, despite budget cuts to schools, by providing transportation reimbursements for school field trips to the District’s nature center.

Docents lead scheduled, environmental field trips for third through fifth grade students at the District’s [David C. Daniels Nature Center](#), however many schools do not have the resources to bus children to the nature center’s rural location in the Skyline Ridge Open Space Preserve. Using money donated by volunteers and the Kabcenell Family, the District created the Transportation Assistance Program in 2008, reimbursing pre-approved schools for transportation costs. Schools must be within the District’s boundaries, which include part of Santa Cruz and much of Santa Clara and San Mateo Counties, and be qualifying Title 1 or low-income schools where vehicle rental or parent assisted transportation is limited.

During the 2008-2009 school year, children from East Palo Alto, Sunnyvale and Half Moon Bay were able to participate in field trips to the nature center because of this program. On the field trips, students connect with the natural world through hands-on interpretive displays and explore the plants and animals in nearby Alpine Pond and surrounding trails. Environmental education not only fosters responsible stewardship of the environment, but has positive effects on children’s health, happiness and ability to learn in school.

In light of recent cuts to education, and with the next school year just around the corner, the District hopes to increase the number of school children benefitting from environmental education at the nature center through the transportation assistance program. **Interested teachers should contact Jennifer Williams at the District at (650) 691-1200 or visit www.openspace.org for more information.**

Created by voters in 1972, the Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District has successfully protected more than 57,000 acres of open space. The public enjoys the District’s diverse and beautiful preserves 365 days a year. The District is public agency whose mission is to acquire and preserve a regional greenbelt of open space land in perpetuity, protect and restore the natural environment, and provide opportunities for ecologically sensitive public enjoyment and education. www.openspace.org.