

Tulare County Office of Education

Jim Vidak, County Superintendent of Schools

May 5, 2009

MEDIA ALERT

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Tulare County Office of Education Announces: Arbor Day Celebration at Mooney Grove Park May 7, 2009 · 9:00 a.m. – 1:30 p.m. · Mooney Grove Park, Visalia

The Tulare County Arbor Day Celebration is a hands-on student event attended by hundreds of third-, fourth-, and fifth-grade students from Tulare and Kings counties. Arbor Day helps students learn the importance and care of trees in our environment. Students who participate will experience environmental lessons within Mooney Grove Park. Local environmental experts conduct fun-filled, activity-based lessons. Students will also get the opportunity to tour the Tulare County museum and learn about the rich history of our valley.

Students will plant a tree at Mooney Grove to help with the park's restoration efforts. Each student will not only learn how to properly plant trees, but will be given their very own seedling to take home and plant with their Mother in celebration of upcoming Mother's Day!

Teachers enjoy celebrating with their students and participating in the environmental lessons. Each teacher receives materials with information on trees and environmental education that aligns to California state science standards.

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Traditionally, National Arbor Day – founded by J. Sterling Morton of Nebraska in 1872 – is celebrated on the last Friday in April. The Tulare County Arbor Day Celebration is held in early May to accommodate schools involved in the California STAR testing.

“Fruit and nut trees are part of the reason Tulare County is one of the largest agricultural producers in the country,” says Tulare County Superintendent of Schools Jim Vidak. “Arbor Day is a great way for students to connect to the agriculture they see all around them.”

For more information, contact Dr. Glenn Williams at glennw@ers.tcoe.org or call (559) 651-3047.

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