



For Immediate Release

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Students Across California Send Giant Ocean Protection Message through Art for World Ocean Day, Tuesday, June 8th

Artwork by Kids Ocean Day Art Contest Local Winner Michaela M. of Daly City featured in Collective Art Project

(SAN FRANCISCO, June 8, 2021) – After a year in which distance learning became standard in California’s schools, hundreds of elementary students from cities across California will be joining together virtually to send a message to the ocean, as the culmination of the 27th Annual Kids Ocean Day Program. Due to the pandemic, the annual program shifted to live online presentations this year, reaching 4,503 students, who learned about watersheds and how they are personally connected to their watershed and the ocean. On June 8th (World Ocean Day), the students are gathering together symbolically through a collective art project that communicates what the ocean means to all of us.

“I am truly inspired by the tenacity of the students in the Bay Area,” states Jodi Stewart, Land Program Manager for the Marine Science Institute. “This year has been challenging for them in many ways. They continue to engage in meaningful conversations and explore the subject matter, even during a virtual program. The students I met, drew beautiful watersheds, identified key ways they can help their local waterways at home, and emphasized how their efforts help the oceans stay healthy for us and for the animals that live there.”

In a typical year, Kids Ocean Day coordinators in five cities up and down the coast would host in-school presentations, which would be followed by a beach cleanup, and culminate with the students forming a work of aerial art (photographed from above) to send a message about the need for clean beaches.

This year, instead of a student-led aerial art formation, students who attended an online classroom presentation were encouraged to create an original artwork illustrating what they love about the ocean for submission to the 2021 Kids Ocean Day Art Contest.

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“Kids Ocean Day 2021 is different from past years but is still very impactful,” said Chris Parry, Public Education Program with the California Coastal Commission. “With each student’s ocean-themed artwork forming part of a collective art project, together they are making a powerful statement about their shared commitment to care for California’s beaches and the Pacific Ocean.”

Each art entry is included as an individual image in a giant online mosaic. The statewide first-place winning artwork is the main image of the mosaic. Contest winners and their teachers received gift cards and other prizes.

Check out the 2021 Kid’s Ocean Day Picture Mosaic and animation video here. (<https://youtu.be/Ae8Ws3VgQGg>). Local & Statewide art winners and finalists are listed below. To view their art pieces, visit <https://www.sfbaymsi.org/kod2021>

1st- Michaela M., Daniel Webster Elementary, Daly City

2nd- Akshaya V., Vinci Park Elementary, San Jose

3rd- Aydan, Vinci Park Elementary, San Jose

Honorable mentions:

Katherine, Cleveland Elementary, San Francisco

Roha S., Vinci Park Elementary, San Jose

James T., George Washington Elementary, Daly City

Kaelyn J., Vinci Park Elementary, San Jose

Student from Vinci Park: “I care about the ocean. The ocean gives us water we need to live. I made this painting to show you how much trash there is in the ocean and all the animals eating it. Please help our sea animals from dying.”

Organizers for the Kids Ocean Day event include Friends of the Dunes (Humboldt County); the Marine Science Institute (San Francisco, San Mateo and Santa Clara Counties); the Malibu Foundation for Environmental Education, the City of Los Angeles Department of Public Works and LA Sanitation and Environment, Watershed Protection Program (Los Angeles County); Orange County Coastkeeper (Orange County); and I Love A Clean San Diego (San Diego County).

“It’s natural for us to protect what we love, like our families and our homes,” said Jack Ainsworth, Executive Director of the California Coastal Commission. “These kids are showing the ocean some love and appreciation and encouraging us to follow their lead. They understand that our home doesn’t end at our doorstep and that we also need to tend to our wider home—the environment where we all live—since we depend on the ocean being healthy, and the ocean depends on us to keep it that way.”

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The Coastal Commission provides financial support to Kids' Ocean Day efforts statewide with proceeds from the Whale Tail® License Plate and voluntary donations on the state tax return to the Protect Our Coast and Oceans Fund.

About the Marine Science Institute

The Marine Science Institute is a not for profit environmental education organization based in Redwood City. MSI has been offering hands-on interdisciplinary science education to students all around the San Francisco Bay Area for over 50 years. Through their land-based programs as well as their ship-based programs on the Research Vessel Robert G. Brownlee, MSI educates around 65,000 students annually about their connection to the environment. By placing students in direct contact with nature, MSI hopes to inspire responsibility and cultivate stewardship for the natural environment. You can learn more about MSI's educational programs, events, summer camps, and membership opportunities at <https://www.sfbaymsi.org/>.

About the California Coastal Commission

The California Coastal Commission is committed to protecting and enhancing California's coast and ocean for present and future generations. It does so through careful planning and regulation of environmentally sustainable development, strong public participation, education, and effective intergovernmental coordination.

The Kids Ocean Day program is part of the Commission's effort to raise public awareness of marine and coastal resources and promote coastal stewardship. For more information about the Commission's programs and how to buy a Whale Tail License Plate, visit www.coastforyou.org.

About Kids Ocean Day

Kids Ocean Day was started in 1994 in Los Angeles County, by the Malibu Foundation for Environmental Education. With support from the California Coastal Commission, the program expanded over the years to other regions of the state and now also takes place in Humboldt, San Francisco, Orange County, and San Diego. The Kids Ocean Day School Assembly has been presented to over 750,000 children and nearly 167,000 have participated in Kid's Ocean Day beach events over the years. For more information, visit <http://oceanday.net/about.html>

The Kids Ocean Day Art Contest and Picture Mosaic was produced by Spectral Q.

Kids Ocean Day Art Contest prizes were sponsored by Alexandria Van Reenan of Michael's Art Supplies (michaels.com) who provided gift cards to our contest winners and Julia Jaye Posin of Shuki (shopshuki.com) who supplied metal straw gift sets for our early submission entries.

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