

## **Students Underwater**

### **Vallejo school transforms itself for Ocean Week**

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In culmination of Ocean Week, St. Vincent Ferrer School in Vallejo on Friday transformed itself into an underwater obstacle course.

Each classroom in the grade K-8 school represented a specific habitat from wetlands to a seaweed forest.

"It definitely promotes an awareness of life beyond the land, but it also follows the standards for science education" said Maria Landazuri, first grade teacher and Ocean Week coordinator.

A number of St. Vincent teachers attended a weeklong marine education program through the Lawrence Hall of Science in Berkeley last June to learn how to throw a successful Ocean Week.

Teachers aid Delilah Halpern learned how to put on a "bird beak buffet" where students used items like chopsticks and spoons to simulate different types of bird beaks.

Now in its fourth year at St. Vincent's, Ocean Week continues to improve every year, said Halpern. This year students received a small passport used to check off habitats as they made their way through the obstacle course.

Parents played an instrumental part in the festivities running activities and providing food including peanut butter and "jellyfish" sandwiches.

Christine Hagberg taught students how to walk like crabs and ducks through her Rocky Seashore section, an activity her 6-year-old son Garrett enjoyed.

"It's fun squatting down. Your legs are squatting and you jump like a frog," said Garrett giving a short hop to prove his point.

Garrett also said he learned about barnacles, sea anemones and other underwater life.

"They do this all the time when they have fun events," said Hagberg, adding that the school has never shied away from helping the kids enjoy learning.

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