



## Journey to the Ocean Field Trip

### Hoover & Franklin Elementary



On October 21 & 30, 120 third-grade students from Hoover and Franklin Elementary schools in the Santa Ana Unified School District ventured to Newport Bay (many for the first time in their lives) to participate in Newport Sea Base's *Journey to the Ocean* field trip program. Thanks to the generosity of the Santa Ana North Rotary, these students experienced hands-on learning at three educational stations: Lifecycle of Trash, Water Pollution/Filtration, and Wetlands Investigation.

Students made water filters, demonstrated hazardous run-off situations, and learned about what they can do to keep their community and their ocean clean. Students' tour to the on the Sea Base's pontoon boats was educational indeed, as they spied sea lions, diving hawks and pelicans, and learned the basics of navigation. Their scientific investigation continued at the Back Bay Science Center as they felt the animals in the touch tanks, analyzed plants and animals with microscopes, and participated in a mud grab.

Connecting what happens on land with the ocean, one student declared, "I wouldn't want people to litter in my house so people should not litter in the ocean because that is where sea animals like fish and dolphins live." Eyes began to open as they started to understand that the ocean is part of their community.

### Taft Elementary



On January 13 & 15, 100 second-grade students from Taft Elementary school in the Santa Ana Unified School District participated in Newport Sea Base's *Journey to the Ocean* field trip program.

Thanks to the generosity of the Santa Ana North Rotary, these students experienced hands-on, S.T.E.M. (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math) based educational stations: Model Boat and Sail Building, Rain Gutter Regatta, Boat Navigation and Nautical Flags.

"Many of the students have never been on a boat before. This was a great opportunity and they very excited!" said Ms. Silva, 2<sup>nd</sup> grade teacher at Taft Elementary.

Students measured and designed their own sails for model catamaran boats and raced their boats against their classmates' creations. After the regatta, the students cruised Newport Harbor via on-the-water classrooms, aka pontoon boats. On board, students learned map skills and demonstrated their navigation capabilities. They also learned about geometric shapes and uncovered hidden messages by learning how to read the Nautical Alphabet.

"My students loved building boats and learned how the geometric shape of their sail can affect the speed of the boat that they made. The field trip tied into a Common Core unit we just completed. This tied into so many things we're learning in school," said Ms. Silva. Students had lots of fun but were also able to take away skills to help supplement their learning path in school. They were amazed to find out that S.T.E.M. is, in fact, a significant part of sailing and the ocean.