

A SORTED AFFAIR

VALCORE Recycling Launches Kid's Corner

by Jane Bogner

Sunday, April 20, 2008

For those of you who missed yesterday's Earth Day events, you have another opportunity to participate today (Sunday, April 20). Put on your gardening clothes and meet at Lake Chabot in Dan Foley park at 9:00 a.m. They will be planting native plants and removing non native plants, and craft activities for the kids along the shores of the lake. The event ends at noon.

Since "Every Day is Earth Day," families and teachers are looking for ways to keep the momentum going. VALCORE Recycling has created a new web page just for children. Kid's Corner has links for games, crafts, and activities for children along with resources for teachers and parents. Here are highlights of the pages that are linked to our site:

Interactive games and puzzles can be found on Waste No Words (crossword puzzle) and Hidden Words (circle a word puzzle). These pages are from the United State Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) web-site.

Recycle Rex is the spokesdinosaur the California Department of Conservation, Division of Recycling. His message is simple: recycle, reduce, reuse and close the loop. On this link you can download coloring pages, games, and crafts including instructions on how to print with an empty can.

Recycle Rex finishes with SURF'S UP, a collection of web sites where kids can learn more about recycling and saving our environment.

Vermi the Worm is from the California Integrated Waste Management Board (CIWMB) web site. In addition to songs there are games and short videos about worm composting.

Kids Recycle features tools for Zero Waste in School. The Grass Roots Recycling Network has links to successful programs in Portland, St Louis, as well as Minnesota and New Zealand. There is also a link is to the West Contra Costa County RecycleMore site.

Recycle City is a good entry to the whole spectrum of recycling and waste. You can visit Recycle City, Dumptown, ReRun Theater, and a Community Warehouse. They also include schools, city hall, recycling and hazardous waste facilities. This EPA site allows kids to take a tour of Recycle City and create their own scavenger hunt. Teachers will get loads of ideas for environmental Zero Waste lesson plans.

Kids Be Green is a CIWMB site filled with fact sheets, games and a coloring book.

The Kids Recycling Page from the Washington State Department of Ecology offers a trivia game, fact sheets, and a terrific short, but complete, guide to backyard composting.

The Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources' Recycling & Beyond site wowed me. In addition to covering the usual recycling, they offer suggestions on Recycling Away From Home, Nature's Recyclers Coloring Book, Recycle for the Birds, and Turning Trash to Treasure for the Holidays. Their Beyond Recycler-opoly is an interactive quiz. I have to admit that I had to stop and carefully read their questions to get the correct answers.

VALCORE has also included a link to the Recycle Media site for their Recycle Tour activities books for grades one through six.

So you don't have to reinvent the recycling wheel for your children, just log on and enjoy the ride.

Vallejo's annual E-Waste and Tire Recycling Event

This event will be held on the following Saturday, April 26, at Vallejo Garbage Service (2021 Broadway, 707 552-3110) from 8:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. They are accepting televisions, computer monitors, computers, and other electronic waste along with fluorescent tubes, household batteries, and passenger tires. Tires are limited to 10 tires per visit and multiple visits are allowed. This is a free drop off for Vallejo residents and businesses.

VALCORE Recycling Board Secretary Jane Bogner's "A Sorted Affair" is published every other week in the Times-Herald. For recycling information call VALCORE Recycling at 645-8258 or visit www.VALCORErecycling.org.

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