

Valuable lessons from chickens and rabbits

Dear editor,

To the Land Trust of Napa County: I am writing to express my gratitude for the program that Michael Lauher has established at Connolly Ranch. For the past five years, the traditional kindergarten classes at Pueblo Vista Elementary School have taken part in classroom visits by Michael and have visited Connolly Ranch. I have found Michael's visits informative and, in turn, they create excitement in the children for our visit to the ranch.

Michael is always well prepared when he visits my classroom and the students are engaged throughout his visit. He brings along an animal from the farm, such as a rabbit or chicken, and allows the children to pet the animal. He also brings a variety of plants that are grown at the farm, and through a sensory lesson the students learn about the plants. He also teaches the students how plants and animals are all connected.

On the day of our visit to Connolly Ranch, the children are greeted by Michael and taken to the big barn. The students then interact with the goats, horse and donkeys. They also feed those animals, as well as the cow and sheep. Then we tour the garden and the students taste the sugar flower, pick beans and dig for worms. The visit to the garden concludes with the planting of seeds. Then we tour the chicken coop, interact with the turkey and then visit with the pigs. All the while, Michael is teaching the students how to take care of the animals.

My class and I thoroughly enjoy our visit to Connolly Ranch and the day is filled with fun and adventure. My students leave Connolly Ranch with an understanding of the importance of taking care of animals and the earth and how they are connected. Most importantly, the students are filled with memories of touching or feeding an animal for the first time and eating vegetables picked fresh from the garden. Again, thank you for providing this wonderful opportunity for the children of Pueblo Vista and Napa.

Raymond Morales, Pueblo Vista Elementary School / Napa

2 comment(s)

proudmama2 wrote on Jun 25, 2009 10:01 AM:

" Our family absolutely loves Connolly Ranch and finds Michael to be a wonderful, informative person. My daughter actually had her birthday party there last year. The kids and the adults learned a great deal that day.

Thank you Michael and Connolly Ranch. You are terrific. "

proudmama2 wrote on Jun 25, 2009 10:02 AM:

" My daughter just corrected me and said, "Michael is awesome. "