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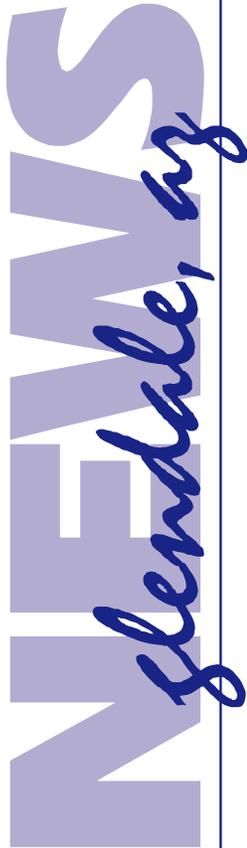
## FOURTH GRADERS LEARN HOW TO GO GREEN BY SAVING BLUE

**GLENDALE, Ariz.** – What do fourth-graders take away from Glendale’s environmental educational experience? “We recycle, pick up trash, water the plants, and turn the water off,” said one student in Ms. Gleecy Butler’s class at Melvin E. Sine Elementary School after Earth Week, in which more than 100 fourth graders participated in *Water Watchers*, a water education program developed by the city of Glendale Water Conservation Office.

*Water Watchers* provides students with the unique opportunity to meet environmental professionals and learn about what they can do to become more water wise. Glendale Water Conservation staff provide interactive “Discovery Stations,” where students gain hands-on experience with 3-D models of groundwater and watershed systems, investigate desert plant adaptations and construct their own dams.

More than 600 students currently participate in the *Water Watchers* program annually, and about 1,500 students have been involved since the program’s inception four years ago. The department’s youth education program, which encompasses the *Water Watchers* curriculum, water conservation-themed puppet shows, xeriscape garden field trips, Desert Explorers (in partnership with the Library) and school-related events involves approximately 5,000 students each year.

~ more ~



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## **Water Watchers**

### **Add 1.1.1**

Fourth-grade teachers who participate in *Water Watchers* receive an activity guide and resource kit that is correlated to the Arizona State Standards for education. The resource kit includes student conservation tools, colorful maps and posters, most of which are donated by local partners, such as Salt River Project and Central Arizona Project.

“Thanks to the city of Glendale for all the wonderful lessons and materials. Our students enjoyed every minute,” said Butler, who has participated for several years, and has inspired many other teachers to get involved, as well. “This is certainly a worthwhile program and we would love to do it again next year.”

Water Conservation Specialist Joanne Toms adds, “*Water Watchers* extends beyond the classroom with students involving their families in a take-home water audit so they can easily assess water use at home. Families who complete the home water audit receive free water conservation kits from Glendale’s Water Conservation Office”.

These programs will soon expand. Beginning next school year, an energy conservation education program called *Watt Watchers* will be offered to Glendale teachers. The city of Glendale recently received funding from the Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grant to develop an energy conservation program for Glendale teachers.

For information about *Water Watchers* or the new *Watt Watchers* program, contact Joanne Toms at 623-930-3535.

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