

# HELPING THE ENVIRONMENT

## Help clean up litter, be an environmental hero!

**By Giselle Santos**  
JOE SERNA JR. CHARTER SCHOOL

Joe Serna's middle school students are giving back to the community by participating in a club named EarthKeepers led by science teacher, Ms. Jacinto.

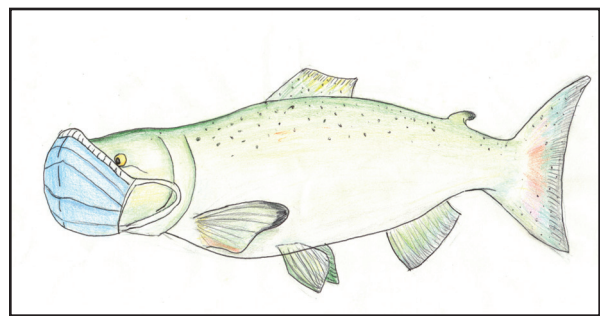
The EarthKeepers focus on keeping our community clean and safe by picking up litter that is left behind on the ground, on the street, and in the gutters. Students feel that it is important to pick up litter, so that our neighborhoods are clean, and our watershed is safe.

To help students with the goal of maintaining the community cleanliness an app named Litterati is being used. With

this app, middle school students are keeping track of how many pieces of litter are being picked up.

Middle school students are currently participating in the LUSD Watershed Challenge with high school science students and teachers. Students are working hard to get Lodi's streets cleaned up, so that litter does not go down the storm drains and flow into the Mokelumne River.

Middle school students would like to encourage Joe Serna families to help in our effort of keeping Lodi clean. To participate, families can download the Litterati app and join the LUSD Watershed Challenge! Together we can be environmental heroes!



LANEY PHILLIPS/JOE SERNA JR. CHARTER

## Why would a salmon be wearing a mask?

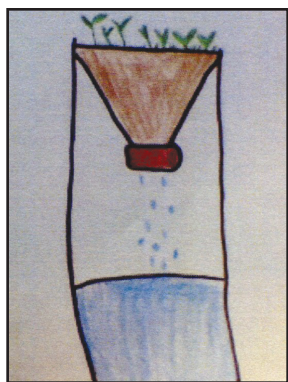
**By Laney Phillips**  
JOE SERNA JR. CHARTER SCHOOL

Well, it may seem silly but this can happen if you aren't careful. With all the masks being used, many are being carelessly thrown into the streets and may eventually make their way into the river through the storm drains. If this happens, it can harm creatures such as this salmon.

## Making a recycled planter

**Cassandra Carranza**  
JOE SERNA JR. CHARTER SCHOOL

I made this drawing of a plant in a recycled water bottle because in the school year we made one of these. ... I chose two water bottles to do this project. I cut them in half and put the top part upside down as you see in the picture. ... I don't remember all the things that I had gotten but I got a bag of dirt and a bag of seeds. ... I left it in a window to let it catch the sun and grow. A couple days later Mrs. Jacinto told us to go and get our plants to



CASSANDRA CARRANZA/JOE SERNA JR. CHARTER SCHOOL

show them to the class. I was surprised to see what the other kids had chosen and how their plants had grown.

## How to make a field journal

**By Elle Paunon**  
JOE SERNA JR. CHARTER SCHOOL

Note: You will need 3 pages of printer paper, 1 page of colored paper (slightly bigger than 8.5 inches by 11 inches), scissors, a hole puncher, and some string or rubber band.

### Step 1

Cut your colored paper in half horizontally. When you have even half the paper, fold it right in the middle. It should look like this:

### Step 2

Once your colored paper is folded, get your 3 pages of printer paper, and cut them in half horizontally. Once you have your pieces of paper cut, fold them in the middle. They should look like this:

### Step 3 (Final step!)

Place your folded printer paper inside the folded colored paper. Then, once you have the printer paper inside the colored paper, grab a rubber band and wrap it around your book. And there you have it! Your very own field journal! You can use this to observe what you see outside and take notes!



ELLE PAUNON/JOE SERNA JR. CHARTER SCHOOL

## Trash mars a trip to Morada Creek



PHOTOGRAPHS BY REHAAN AHMAD/MORADA MIDDLE SCHOOL

## Pollution poses problems for local waterways

**By Rehaan Ahmad**  
MORADA MIDDLE SCHOOL

The water at Morada Creek is very dirty. I went there on Friday, April 23.

The water has garbage that can kill animals. The water has garbage like plastic and papers. The water is a greenish-brown color then clean blue water, so that tells me that people have been throwing trash in the water.

Plastic water bottles in the water can be dangerous. I have found some water bottles in the water.

Animals can get hit by the trash or even eat it and they can choke to death, so people should not throw stuff in the water. The water needs to be clean so it is healthy for the animals.

The things you throw away can affect the water. Trash can affect water in different ways. It can change color. It can also get the water stuck behind trash and the pipes can explode, so that is another reason why you should not throw trash in the water.



### What You'll Need;

Scissors  
Soil  
Seeds of your choice

### What You Can Use:

Water Bottle  
Plastic Soda Bottle  
Plastic Milk Carton  
Soda Can

### Step 1:

### Step 2:

Sharp Edges

### OPTIONAL STEP:

APRIL PEREZ/JOE SERNA JR. CHARTER SCHOOL

## How to make a planter from recyclables

**By Alexander Cahue**  
JOE SERNA JR. CHARTER SCHOOL

1. Get a recyclable.
2. Cut the recyclable in half.
3. Then add soil.
4. After that make some holes in the soil.
5. Add a couple of seeds.
6. When you are done with that put it in a sunny window and put a little water.



### What you'll need:

- 3 pieces of printer paper (you can use more if you want)
- 1 piece of colored construction paper
- A pair of scissors
- Thin ribbon (an alternative is a rubber band)



**Step 1:**  
Cut all 3 printer paper in half (make sure the paper is horizontally)

**Step 2:**  
This is how the papers should end up looking like.

**Step 3:** Also cut the construction paper in half (also horizontally)

**Step 4:**  
Now fold all the papers in half as shown in the photos.

**Step 5:**  
You will now tie the ribbon through the middle of the book like shown above

Lastly you can decorate the cover how ever you would like.

ANABEL QUINTANA/JOE SERNA JR. CHARTER SCHOOL