

HELPING THE WATERSHED

Giant Garter Snake

By **Sophia Sotelo Diaz**
REESE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

Giant garter snakes are carnivores
Indigenous to San Joaquin County
Anthropogenic biome
Nearly extinct
Tadpole eater

Grows from 94-165cm
Adults commonly eat bullfrogs
Red, yellow or orange stripes on their back
Thamnophis gigas is it's scientific name
Endangered reptile in San Joaquin County
Rice agriculture is one of its habitats

Semi-aquatic venomous snake
Near fresh water
Also live in marshes
Keel scales help it hide from predators
Eats fish as an adult

Watershed poem

By **Izabella Nunez**
BECKMAN ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

Water water everywhere,
The screaming wind,
The sailor ready to go,
We're all sitting down,
Alert to know the rules.

The boat rocking could barely stay still,
I'm feeling seasick,
"Be careful, don't slip and fall," they say,
The growling sea all around us,
Just us watching the salty dark sea below us,
The comfort of each other.

Water water everywhere,
"Hold on now, we're almost there," they say,
"Get into groups so we can get to the activities"
The staff say.

As waves crash and smash,
The creatures tumble,
The magic of the sea,
What goes on in the ocean, who knows?
The mermaids may live,
The plankton float,
As we put a net in the water,
We wait a couple of minutes,
As plankton crash in the net,
We take the wet net out of the water,
We go to a room with a microscope,
We research to see what type of plankton it is.

After all that's all I remember,
From this glorious trip we had.

Ocean

By **Aaliyah Chavez**
BORCHARDT ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

Ocean water is deep
Creatures such as crabs, sea snails and shrimp
Elegant crabs with hard shells
Always changing tide
Nature is beautiful

Poem

By **Kaitlyn Hidalgo Herrera**
ELKHORN ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

Oh Mokelumne Current,
You bring me joy, and you don't annoy.
We all change and so do you.
We all have ups and downs,
Your current does too.
Your beautiful, colorful salmon,
I watch them, they calm me.
I'm no longer lonely.

Littering ... a problem at Heritage and the world

By **Juan Bueno**
HERITAGE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

Room 15 kids found out a problem that is not only happening at Heritage Elementary but the whole world. The problem is littering. You might think it's not a

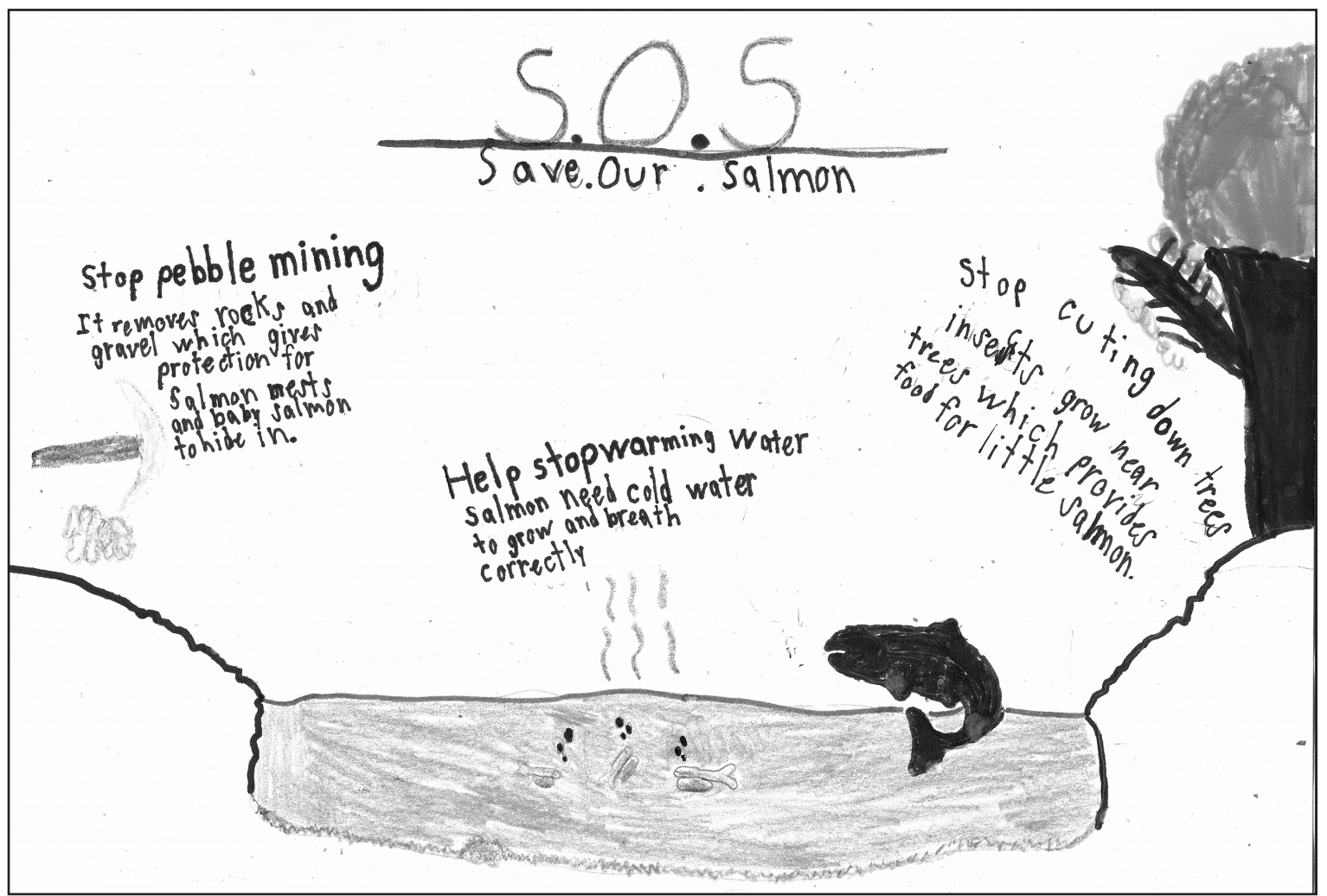
big problem but it is. Littering can cause any animal, including those that live in the sea, to die.

So, our class found out that kids have been littering and they did an experiment. They picked up trash but with a little fun. Room 15 went on a

scavenger hunt. They found litter that could be recycled and they picked up the trash. They filled a bag to see how much people litter at Heritage Elementary. The bag was almost overflowing.

They picked up all kinds of trash like face masks, candy

wrappers, spoons, napkins and water bottles. The children thought this was fun because they said, "It's kind of like a race, running to get trash off the ground." I still can't believe we picked up trash to not only help our school but the world!



JOSHUA EDDY/REESE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

Washer

Continued from Page 1

Unified. She also has been in other leadership positions, including principal, in Stockton Unified. Dr.

Washer was even a teacher in Sacramento.

What accomplishments are you most proud of while serving as Lodi Unified's superintendent?

Dr. Washer is most proud of the improved safety measures put into place in the district. These include drills, fences and gates, buzzers to enter campuses, and collaboration with police, fire, and ambulance services. Dr. Washer is also proud of the emphasis on reading in the early grades (kindergarten

to second grade).

As a young child, what did you want to be when you grew up? Did you ever imagine you would be the leader of a school district?

Dr. Washer wanted to be a teacher and played teacher while reading to her younger sister while growing up. She did not even know what a superintendent was — even after becoming a teacher!

Can you please share with us your fondest memories of your time in Lodi Unified?

Dr. Washer loved going into first and second grade classrooms and reading to the students. She often left them books to take home and even dressed up as different charac-

ters. Dr. Washer is passionate about early literacy.

What are your plans in your well-deserved retirement?

Dr. Washer is a new grandmother and plans to take care of her granddaughter while her daughter goes back to work.

Can you please tell us about your family and pets?

Dr. Washer has a husband, a daughter, a granddaughter, and two step-children. She also has a 14-year-old dog named Cookie. Over the years, Dr. Washer has had many cats, fish, and dogs.

What is your all time favorite book and why?

Dr. Washer's favorite book

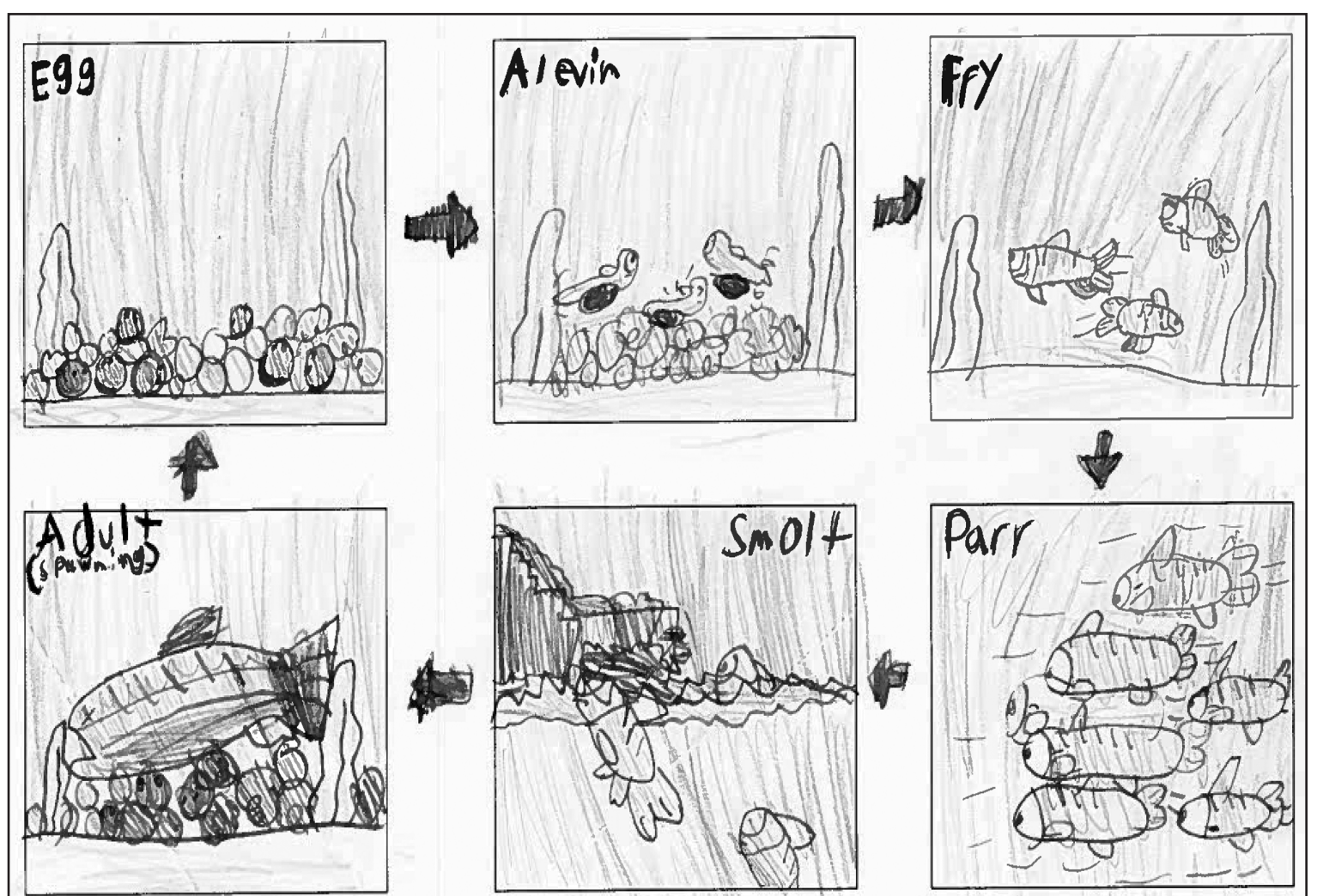
is "James and the Giant Peach." She loves the theme of friendship and the mystery and magic of the various characters. Dr. Washer said that no matter what you are going through in life, having a good group of people around you makes it easier.

What advice would you give to the new superintendent, my dad, Mr. Young?

(Asked by fifth-grader Anna Young.)

Dr. Washer's advice to Mr. Young is to always be true to yourself and don't let anyone change you. You are smart and prepared and will make great decisions for Lodi Unified.

Thank you for your service, Dr. Washer! Best wishes in your retirement.



JULIAN PINILLOS/TURNER ACADEMY

The students of Beckman, Borchardt, Elkhorn, Heritage, Houston, Reese, Sutherland and Vinewood elementary schools, as well as Turner Academy, would like to thank the following sponsors for their support:

