



Making the grade

LivingWise® celebrates fifth year of energy and water efficiency

By Leslie O'Berry

On April 8, for the fifth year running, the High Sierra Energy Initiative partnered with the Mammoth Community Water District to kick off the LivingWise® program at Mammoth Middle School.

The LivingWise® Program is an energy and water efficiency program that supplements the California sixth grade earth science curriculum. The program has become a staple in Mammoth and it's so exciting to see how it has grown over the last five years.

With the addition of the funds contributed by the Water District, the LivingWise® program is sure to have another successful year. Students will be introduced to water and energy efficiency through kits

containing tools that demonstrate how easy it is to save money and the environment.

According to Gil Campos, the sixth-grade earth science teacher, "I am able to not only involve my students with their LivingWise® kits, but the parents and communities as well. With the kits I was able to send the students home to install their water and energy-saving devices and notice the difference that the device makes by making calculations to see actual dollars saved. The students then went on to educate their parents, and the parents went on to spread the word throughout the community. The LivingWise® program and kit is a very effective method for presenting energy and water-saving habits to a commu-



PHOTO: PAMELA STAYDEN

Another season of LivingWise® kicked off on April 8 when current sixth graders at Mammoth Middle School received their energy efficiency kits.

nity."

In addition to receiving the LivingWise® kits, students will also participate in an energy and water Jeopardy tournament, get a tour of the entire water treatment process at the Mammoth Community Water District, and build solar cookers and have a "cook-off" at the end of the school year.

The best part about this program is that not only do we save water and energy using the tools in the kit, but we affect the way the students and

their families use energy and water in their home. In 2010, 73 percent of the families reported that they changed the way they used energy and water and were more efficient. Over time these behavior changes will make a huge difference!

Stay tuned for more news on the LivingWise® Program as the year progresses!

Leslie O'Berry is the Director of Special Projects for the High Sierra Energy Foundation.

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