



Science is fun – just ask any of the elementary schoolchildren in the Cabrillo Marine Aquarium’s CMA Kids News program or the CMA PressFriends mentors and CMA Junior and Senior Docents who run the program.

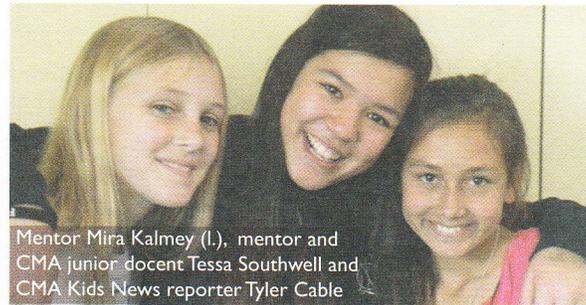
CMA Kids News was launched this year. Its inaugural issue was published in February and focused on sea animals. The 16-page issue was packed with articles on moon jellies, sharks, dolphins, the California spiny lobster, octopi, sea otters, sea lions, sea turtles, sea horses, seals, angler fish, mantis shrimp and kelp forests.

The second issue of CMA Kids News was published in May and focused on CMA’s Earth Day. CMA Kids News reporters interviewed a number of people, including author Joel Harper (*All the Way to the Ocean*) and representatives from the Marine Mammal Care Center, the EPA, DIVERS, the American Cetacean Society and Los Angeles County Public Works.

CMA Kids News is generously funded by FRIENDS of Cabrillo Marine Aquarium. Be sure to pick up an issue when you’re at CMA.

### **VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES FOR CMA JUNIOR AND SENIOR DOCENTS**

The CMA PressFriends mentor program is a joint

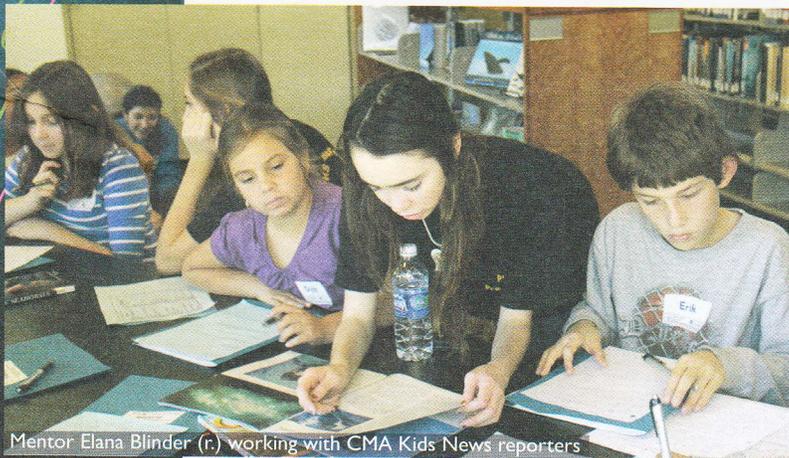


Mentor Mira Kalmey (l.), mentor and CMA junior docent Tessa Southwell and CMA Kids News reporter Tyler Cable

program between CMA and PressFriends ([www.pressfriends.org](http://www.pressfriends.org)), which is a student-run organization that currently works with six elementary schools in addition to running newswriting workshops at the CMA library and Palos Verdes Peninsula Center library. A large number of the middle and high school mentors in the program are CMA junior and senior high docents, and docent volunteers receive volunteer hours as part of the CMA Docent Program. The elementary students participating in the CMA Kids News program benefit from the docents’ knowledge of the Aquarium, not to mention getting private tours from their CMA mentors.

Middle and high school PressFriends volunteers go through a modified training program run by PressFriends’ Student Advisory Board Vice President of Training, Anna Wood, who is also a CMA senior high docent.

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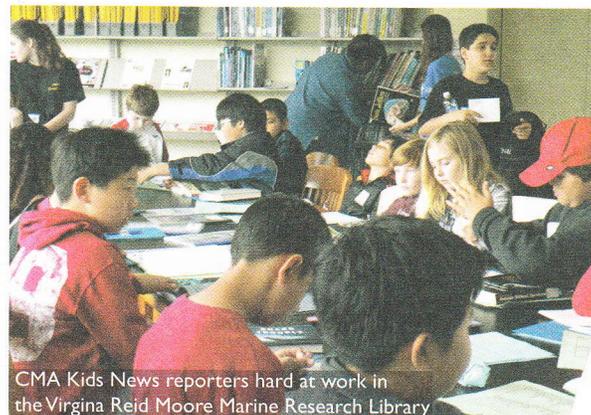


Mentor Elana Blinder (r.) working with CMA Kids News reporters

### **CALLING ALL THIRD-, FOURTH- AND FIFTH-GRADE WRITERS**

The CMA Kids News workshops are free and open to students entering the third, fourth or fifth grade. The workshops are conducted in CMA’s Virginia Reid Moore Marine Research Library and students learn how to use its resources to research their articles.

The PressFriends motto is “Making Friends While Making Writing Fun,” and in the summer workshop on August 20 the kids will explore our local tidepools. Check the CMA website to sign up.



CMA Kids News reporters hard at work in the Virginia Reid Moore Marine Research Library

## CMA KIDS NEWS MAKES A SPLASH

(Continued from page one)

### ABOUT PRESSFRIENDS

PressFriends was started by a group of 7th-grade students in 2008 and now has over 90 middle and high school volunteers. The PressFriends program is aimed at making writing fun for elementary school students, but also seeks to empower both the mentors and elementary student news reporters to become leaders.

"We started PressFriends to reach kids in elementary school when we felt that we could still make a difference in their lives by showing them that writing is easy and that there isn't any difference between kids living in different parts of the South Bay," said Luke Southwell, president of PressFriends' Student Advisory Board and a CMA senior high docent. "Once we began to follow the



CMA Kids News reporters Sean and Loren Kim, with mentor Taylor Wirtz, conducting interviews at the CMA's Earth Day event

CMA junior high docent program model and started using a lot of learning games, the program really took off."

There are currently six elementary schools in the PressFriends program and one to be added in the fall: Taper Avenue Elementary and Seventh Street Elementary in San Pedro, Franklin Delano Roosevelt Elementary and Mark Twain Elementary in Lawndale, 135th Street Elementary in Gardena and Lincoln Elementary in Burlingame. Next year, Riviera Elementary in Torrance will also be working with PressFriends.

In addition to holding six workshops a year at the Aquarium, which results in publishing three CMA Kids News issues, PressFriends also holds workshops for elementary school kids in partnership with the Palos Verdes Library District.

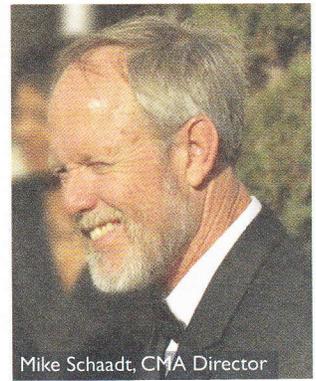
DEBORA CHAN-SOUTHWELL PRESSFRIENDS FOUNDER



Mentor and CMA senior docent Alison Bartkowski with CMA Kids News reporters

## FROM THE DIRECTOR

The culmination of intensive work by staff resulted in CMA being accredited by the Association of Zoos and Aquariums for another five-year cycle. After meeting with the Accreditation Committee in Tennessee in March we were told CMA is a "gem of an aquarium" and that the accreditation is "without reservations."



Mike Schaadt, CMA Director

We're proud of the students who worked so hard on their science fair projects here at CMA under the guidance of staff mentors led by CMA Curator Dr. Kiersten Darrow. Many of the students received awards at local, county and state science fair competitions. Two students received awards at the INTEL International Science Fair held in Los Angeles in May. Julian Kimura of Peninsula High received 4th place in Animal Sciences and Adrienne McColl of San Pedro High was awarded 1st place in Animal Sciences and Best in Category. There were 1,500 participants from all over the world in the competition!

MIKE SCHAADT CMA DIRECTOR

## AROUND AND ABOUT THE AQUARIUM

**Internet Savvy** - The Virginia Reid Moore Marine Research Library's catalog has been restored and will be available on the internet. Catalog features will include book jackets, summaries and first chapters. The catalog can be searched by author, title, subject and keywords..

**Keeping it Clean** - CMA staff and volunteers led an all-out assault on the inner beach during the annual "Day after Memorial Day Beach Cleanup." Their efforts ensured that the beach would be in tip-top shape for the schoolchildren participating in Cabrillo Marine Aquarium's Spring Outdoor Program. **Aloha!** CMA welcomed two visitors from the Waikiki Aquarium. Over the course of their two-day visit, the pair attended a Meet the Grunion Program, toured the facility and exchanged information concerning educational programming.

**"An Ocean of Inspiration: The John M. Olguin Story"** will be available at the CMA Sea Fair on October 16. The authors will be on site for a book signing. You can pre-order your book at the CMA gift shop. All proceeds go to John's favorite non-profits, including the CMA Junior Docent Scholarship Endowment Fund. **Hatching is Catching** - On World Ocean Day, June 8, the Nausicaa Aquarium in Boulogne, France televised the hatching of grunion eggs sent to them by CMA.

MARGO KENNEDY CMA MANAGEMENT ANALYST



What could be more appropriate for a teaching aquarium like ours than to host a newsletter about marine science written by elementary schoolchildren mentored by local middle school students? CMA Kids News was launched with a Winter 2011 issue devoted to John Olguin and it has shared stories about CMA programs and animals through an online newsletter and printed copies for classrooms and local libraries. Here are some highlights from the two issues published so far...

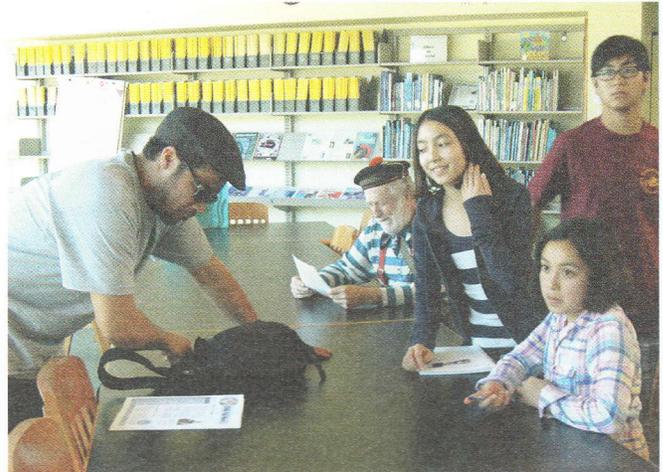
## All The Way to the Ocean

By Sara K.

Joel Harper recently published a book called *All the Way to the Ocean*. It is a book that inspires and educates children to prevent storm drain pollution. You can help take care of the Earth by picking up trash around the beach and not littering!

Joel Harper got the idea for his book when he saw how the sea was in

*(Continued in CMA Kids News, Spring 2011, Volume 1, Issue 2, page 12)*



Author Joel Harper with Sara K. and Diana K.



## Welcome to CMA Kids News!

PressFriends would like to thank all the CMA Kids News reporters for their work on this issue. You all did a great job, and we had a great time working with you.

PressFriends would like to also thank CMA Librarian Cecily Thomas for all her help in putting together the workshops. And many

thanks to Mike Schaadt, Dr. Kiersten Darrow, Paula Moore, Larry Fukuhara, Floyd Anderson, Ed Mastro, and Margo Kennedy for giving us this opportunity.

Finally, PressFriends would like to thank all the CMA Junior and Senior Docents that worked with PressFriends to help run the writing workshops.

We held two writing workshops in the CMA library in January for almost 40 elementary school students. The CMA and PressFriends will be holding free quarterly writing workshops for 3rd, 4th and 5th graders, due to the generous support and sponsorship of the FRIENDS of the CMA.

PressFriends is a community service group run by middle and high school kids. We work with elementary school students to help them start and run school newspapers. In addition to holding CMA writing workshops, we work with six elementary schools—three in San Pedro, two in Lawndale, and one in Gardena..

PressFriends is a project of Community Partners, a 501(c)(3). We hope to see you at the next workshop!

Luke Southwell  
President, PressFriends  
Student Advisory Board

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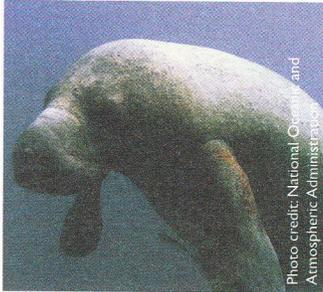
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### Inside this issue:

Reduce, Reuse, Recycle	3
Stinky Storm Drains	3
SCMI Makes Waves	4
SCMI: Saving Our Ocean	4
Help the Marine Scene	5
EPA Watchdog	5



CMA librarian Cecily Thomas with PressFriends and CMA junior docents at the CMA writing workshop for elementary students on Jan. 22



Manatee

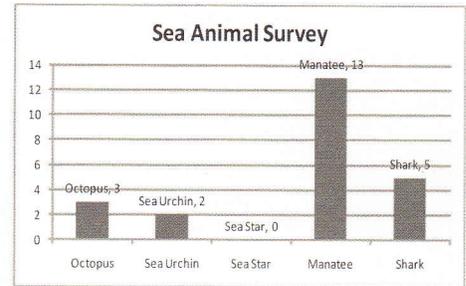
## What is Your Favorite Sea Animal? By Joshua W.

**C**MA Kids News conducted a survey of twenty-three students visiting the Cabrillo Marine Aquarium to find out which sea animal they liked the best. Their choices were: the octopus, sea urchin, sea star, manatee, and shark.

Of those five, the manatee was the favorite with a whopping 57% of the vote. The shark came in second with 22% of the vote, followed by the octopus with 13% and the sea urchin with 8%. No one cast a vote for

the sea star, which is sometimes called a starfish.

To give the sea star another chance, we conducted a second survey of students visiting the Cabrillo Marine Aquarium. This time their choices were the sea star, squid, mackerel, whale, and angler fish. The whale took a whale of votes, coming in first with 42%. The angler fish was



next with 28%. The sea star and squid tied for third with 13% each, and the mackerel came in last with 4%.

The manatee and whale came out tops in our surveys. Which one is your favorite? ❖

## The Regal California Spiny Lobster By Naoya

**C**alifornia spiny lobsters are huge animals that are full of beauty. The California spiny lobster does not have claws but uses the sharp spines on its body and tail to defend itself.

California spiny lobsters are delicious and eaten by many people, so California has put limits on the size of lobsters that can be taken by commercial fisherman, and the body shell of the spiny lobster must be at

least 3-1/2 inches. Most of the California spiny lobsters caught by commercial fisherman weigh between 1.25 and 2 pounds.

Commercial fisherman have to get a permit to fish spiny lobsters and deckhands need a lobster crew-member permit. If you are fishing for fun, the daily bag limit for sport fishing is seven lobsters.

The California spiny lobster can get up to 26 pounds and three feet long.

It is found between Santa Barbara County and Baja California and live up to 240 feet under the ocean water. Its habitat is among the rocks in crevices or holes. At night, the spiny lobster leaves its den to search for food. They scavenge for much of their food but also prey on creatures like mussels, snails, sea urchins, clams, fish and injured or newly molted lobsters. ❖



California Spiny Lobster



## Moon Jellies

By Isaak

**T**he Moon Jelly floats through the ocean water. They move in a waving motion as the ocean currents help move them through the water. They live in the Pacific Ocean, Atlantic Ocean, and the Indian Ocean.

Moon jellies have interesting tentacles. They are a short fringe that sweeps food toward the mucous layer on the edges of the

bells. Prey is stored in pouches until the oral arms pick it up and begin to digest it.

There are four short feeding arms under the bell that catch zooplankton and small, free floating marine animals. The tentacles bring the food to their mouth. I think it's gross, but the food comes in and goes out the same place.

The moon jelly looks

harmful, but it is not dangerous to touch. They won't sting you like other jelly fish, but they can irritate your skin if they are touched.

For more information, go to [www.cabrillomarine-aquarium.org/research-conservation/research-at-cma.asp](http://www.cabrillomarine-aquarium.org/research-conservation/research-at-cma.asp). ❖