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**MOSQUITO AND WEST NILE VIRUS EDUCATION CONTINUES IN LOCAL  
THIRD GRADE CLASSROOM**

***--The Sacramento-Yolo Mosquito and Vector Control District enlists local teacher to help  
combat mosquitoes and West Nile virus***

**ELK GROVE, Calif., November 22, 2006** - As cooler weather sets in, summer becomes a distant memory and with it so do mosquitoes and the threat of West Nile virus. But for the Sacramento-Yolo Mosquito and Vector Control District and a local educator with the Elk Grove Unified School District, the battle will continue not in fields and backyards, but in her classroom. Heera Kulkarni, a third grade teacher at Roy Herburger Elementary, will be armed with the appropriate tools to educate her students about the life cycle, medical significance and control/prevention methods of mosquitoes and West Nile virus. The District's *Be a Mosquito Buster Educator Guide* is packed with fun activities that include "Build-Your-Own-Mosquito", "Mosquito Life Cycle Observation Kit", "Fight the Bite Bumper Sticker Contest", the "Head, Abdomen, Thorax" song, and much more. Her students are engaged and inspired to learn more about mosquitoes and West Nile virus as well as additional services the District provides. All of the activities and curricula correlate with state standards.

**Photo opportunity:** Ms. Kulkarni's 3rd Grade Classroom  
Wednesday, November 29 from 9:00 - 10:00 AM  
Roy Herburger Elementary | 8670 Maranello Drive | Elk Grove

For additional information please contact Jennifer Benito, Public Information Officer, Sacramento-Yolo Mosquito and Vector Control District at 916.405.2082 or Elizabeth Graswich, Public Information Officer, Elk Grove Unified School District at 916.686.7732.

**7Ds**

**DRAIN** any standing water that may produce mosquitoes. **DAWN** and **DUSK** are times to avoid being outdoors. These are the times when mosquitoes are most active. **DRESS** appropriately by wearing long sleeves and pants when outside. **DEFEND** yourself against mosquitoes by using an effective insect repellent, such as DEET, Picaridin or Oil of Lemon Eucalyptus. Make sure you follow label directions! **DOOR** and window screens should be in good working condition. This will prevent mosquitoes from entering your home. **DISTRICT** personnel are also available to address any mosquito problem you may be experiencing by calling 1-800-429-1022 or visiting us online at [FIGHTtheBITE.net](http://FIGHTtheBITE.net).

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## --Mosquito and West Nile Virus Education Continues in Local Third Grade Classroom Page 2

### **West Nile virus**

According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), West Nile virus (WNV) is the leading cause of arboviral encephalitis in the United States. Originally discovered in Africa in 1937, WNV was first detected in the western hemisphere in 1999 in New York City. Since then it has caused seasonal epidemics of West Nile virus fever and severe neurological disease. West Nile virus is transmitted to humans and animals through the bite of an infected mosquito. Mosquitoes become infected with WNV when they feed on infected birds.

To report a dead bird call 1-877-WNV-BIRD (1-877-968-2473) or visit the California Department of Health Services online at [westnile.ca.gov](http://westnile.ca.gov)

The **Sacramento-Yolo Mosquito and Vector Control District** provides mosquito and vector control services for Sacramento and Yolo counties.

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