

For Immediate Release

November 1, 2005

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“DETECTIVE DRIZZLE” VISITS SACRAMENTO SCHOOLS

On a planet covered with 326 million cubic miles of water, it can seem like a mystery that water conservation and pollution are even an issue. But consider this: 97% of earth’s water is salty and 2.4% is frozen. Much of the remaining water is polluted or unreachable. By the time all is said and done, the amount of readily available drinking water is far less than 1% of all the water in the world!



Despite water’s importance, we are often blissfully unaware of the relative scarcity of this critical resource. In California alone, we take enough water out of our rivers and lakes **every day** to fill a column of water one foot wide from here to the moon and back again¹. And that doesn’t even include the water that we pump from the ground! Additionally, the EPA reports that one of the leading sources of water quality problems is non-point source pollution (pollution which, unlike pollution from industrial and sewage treatment plants, comes from many diffuse sources—such as cars leaking oil, agricultural runoff, and fertilizers running off gardens²).

Someone has to teach us a lesson about being the efficient users and protecting our water resources—but who? Enter Detective Drizzle, a pun-talkin’, water stalkin’ detective, complete with a trench coat, fedora, and a flood of watery information. For the past three years, Detective Drizzle has been charming elementary and middle school students (and their teachers!) with a fabulous school assembly called “The Great Water Mystery.”

“The Great Water Mystery” uses hilarious audience participation—including turning two students into a working model of a watershed—dramatic slides, and exciting demonstrations to inspire students about protecting and conserving our precious water resources. Thanks to sponsorship from the **Sacramento Stormwater Quality Partnership and Regional Water Authority’s 14 participating water agencies**, Detective Drizzle’s visits are free to 15,000 students in Sacramento and Placer Counties this fall.

¹ California water use found at USGS site (<http://pubs.usgs.gov/circ/2004/circ1268/htdocs/table03.html>).

Distance to the moon found at (<http://home.att.net/~harris83/page4.html>)

² <http://www.epa.gov/305b/2000report/execsum.pdf>

This assembly program is a boon to teachers too, since it teaches science concepts that teachers are already striving to include in their classrooms—the water cycle and resource use, to name a few—and makes them fun and entertaining. “The attention span of our students can be noticeably short; The Great Water Mystery, however, held 100% of their attention and produced interest in the water cycle that inspired great class discussions,” wrote Ms. Smith at Bret Harte Elementary.

“The Great Water Mystery,” which was designed and produced by a non-profit organization known as the **South Yuba River Citizens League or SYRCL**, has blossomed into a multi-county program that is meeting state requirements for many water agencies. By this December, Detective Drizzle will have reached over 46,000 school children.

Each student who learns about water conservation and pollution prevention joins the growing tide of support for our water resources. So, as Detective Drizzle would say, the challenge to you is to become a water detective yourself. You can call your local water provider for a free service “Water Wise House Call” to help look for clues and receive a landscape watering schedule to reduce water waste and polluted runoff. Or look for clues in your own houses about how you can become part of the pollution solution and conserve our precious resource... water.

If you're interested in seeing Detective Drizzle in action, please make advance arrangements by contacting Carlyle Holmes, SYRCL's RiverTeachers Director, at 265-5961 ext. 204, or e-mail carlyle@syrcl.org. You can also visit www.riverteachers.org.

UPCOMING PRESENTATION DATES

DATE	GRADE	#KIDS	SCHOOL	ADDRESS	CITY
11/7	3-6	258	Crocker/Riverside Elem.	2970 Riverside Ave.	Sacramento
11/7	3-6	311	Earl Warren Elem.	5420 Lowell St.	Sacramento
11/8	3-5	180	Blanche Sprentz Elem.	249 Flower Drive	Folsom
11/8	3	100	Empire Oaks Elem.	1830 Bonhill Dr.	Folsom
11/8	3-6	320	Theodore Judah Elem.	101 Dean Way	Folsom
11/9	4-6	200	Camellia Elem.	6600 Cougar Dr.	Sacramento
11/9	3	100	Pacific Elem. School	6201 41st St.	Sacramento
11/9	4-6	250	Nicholas Elem. School	6601 Steiner Dr	Sacramento
11/10	4-5	208	Elitha Donner Elem.	9461 Soaring Oaks Dr	Elk Grove
11/10	3,6	208	Elitha Donner Elem.	9461 Soaring Oaks Dr	Elk Grove
11/10	3, 6	250	Anna Kirchgater Elem.	8141 Stevenson Ave	Sacramento
11/14	4	70	Green Oaks Fundam.	7145 Filbert Ave.	Orangevale
11/15	3-6	140	Riverview Elem.	10700 Ambassador Dr.	Rancho Cordova
11/15	6	150	W. E. Mitchell Elem.	2100 Zinfandel Dr.	Rancho Cordova
11/16	3-6	400	Ethel Phillips Elem.	2930 21st. Ave.	Sacramento
11/16	3-4	140	Hagginwood Elem.	1418 Palo Verde Ave.	Sacramento
11/16	5-6	130	Hagginwood Elem.	1418 Palo Verde	Sacramento

				Ave.	
11/17	3-6	370	Carriage Drive Elem.	7519 Carriage Drive	Citrus Hts
11/17	6	150	Folsom Middle	500 Blue Ravine Rd.	Folsom
11/17	6	150	Folsom Middle	500 Blue Ravine Rd.	Folsom
11/18	3-5	280	Skyridge Elem.	800 Perkins Way	Auburn
11/18	3-4	38	Calvary Chapel Christian	202 DAIRY RD	Auburn
11/18	3-6	120	Alta Vista Elem.	173 Oak St.	Auburn
11/21	3-6	350	Florence Mackofer Elem.	9759 Tralee Way	Elk Grove
11/21	3-6	320	Herman Leimbach Elem.	8101 Grandstaff Dr.	Sacramento
11/29	3-6	100	Penryn Elem.	6885 English Colony	Penryn
11/29	3	80	Woodbridge Fund.	515 Niles Ave.	Roseville
11/29	3-5	280	Blue Oaks Elem.	8150 Horncastle Ave	Roseville
11/30	4-6	200	Coyle Avenue Elem.	6330 Coyle Ave.	Carmichael
11/30	3-6	300	Babcock Elem.	2400 Cormorant Way	Sacramento
12/2	3-6	350	Parker Whitney Elem.	5147 TOPAZ AVE.	Rocklin
12/2	3	46	Thomas Jefferson Elem.	750 Central Park Dr	Roseville
12/2	3,5	105	Kaseberg Elem.	1040 Main St.	Roseville
12/5	4-6	130	Starr King Elem. School	4848 Cottage Way	Carmichael
12/5	3-6	280	Grand Oaks Elem.	7901 Rosswood Drive	Citrus Hts
12/5	3-5	76	St Albans County Day	2312 VERNON ST.	Roseville
12/6	3-5	260	First Street School	1400 First St.	Lincoln
12/6	3-5	350	Creskide Oaks Charter	2030 First St.	Lincoln
12/8	3-6	352	Woodside Elem.	8248 Villa Oak Dr.	Citrus Hts.
12/8	4-5	246	Ridgeview Elem.	9177 Twin School Rd.	Granite Bay
12/8	5-6	246	Ridgeview Elem.	9177 Twin School Rd.	Granite Bay
12/9	4-6	374	John Ehrhardt Elem.	8900 Old Creek Rd.	Elk Grove
12/9	3	100	Union House Elem.	7850 Deer Creek Dr.	Sacramento
12/9	4-5	190	Fairsite Elem.	902 Caroline St.	Galt
12/12	4-5	150	Twin Oaks Elem.	2835 Club Dr.	Rocklin
12/12	3	100	Twin Oaks Elem.	2835 Club Dr.	Rocklin
12/12	4-5	287	Oak Hill Elem.	3909 North Loop Blvd	Antelope
12/13	3-6	200	Hollywood Park Elem.	4915 Harte Way	Sacramento
12/13	3-6	107	Jedediah Smith Elem.	401 McClatchy Way	Sacramento
12/14	3-4	200	Elder Creek Elem.	7934 Lemon Hill Ave.	Sacramento
12/14	5-6	200	Elder Creek Elem.	7934 Lemon Hill Ave.	Sacramento
12/14	3-6	290	Fairbanks Elem.	227 Fairbanks Ave	Sacramento

The Regional Water Authority (RWA) is a joint powers authority representing 22 water providers in the greater Sacramento area. Its primary mission is to help its members protect and enhance the reliability, availability, affordability and quality of water resources.