



Photos by Christina Vo

Piedmont students, teachers and parents helped clean up the Bay on September 26. Pictured are (front): Joey Anastasi, 1st grade Havens; William Bridges, 1st grade Wildwood, Kai Hsu, 2nd grade Wildwood; Jordan Vo, 5th grade Havens; parent Freda Zietlow; (back) parents Angela Anastasi, Margaret Bridges and Moira Chapman; Ella Vo, 8th grade PMS; and Ken Taylor, Havens Assistant Principal and 5th grade teacher.

Piedmont kids, families help clean up shoreline

On Saturday, September 16, students from Beach, Havens, and Wildwood, their families, and Havens Assistant Principal and 5th grade teacher, Ken Taylor, participated in the 33rd annual statewide Coastal Cleanup Day through SERVES (Student Engagement, Responsibility, and Volunteerism in our Ele-

mentary Schools), the Piedmont tri-school community service program.

Wearing gloves and carrying buckets and bags, students collected trash at the Martin Luther King, Jr. Regional Shoreline Park in Oakland, coordinating their efforts with the Golden Gate Audubon Society, that or-

ganized groups of volunteers for the annual event.

Litter is not all the students picked up. Piedmont Middle School 8th grader Ella Vo, who has volunteered for several years, said "I've learned how trash can affect a lot of animals and the ocean. The ocean becomes polluted, the animals eat

the trash and get sick or die from that."

Last year, more than 59,000 volunteers across the state gathered over 710,000 pounds of garbage and recyclables at the event. The most common items found this year by the 31 volunteers with SERVES were plastic caps, bags, bottles and Styrofoam. Plastic is the main source of marine debris and most of it comes from urban run-off through storm drains, other waterways and wind. When it makes its way into the Bay or ocean, animals may mistake it for food or become entangled in it, posing a threat to their survival.

A good sign for the health of the Bay, according to Clay Anderson, a program manager with Golden Gate Audubon Society,

is that osprey have started to return to make it their habitat once again.

"They specialize in fish (as their main food source), so by keeping the Bay cleaner, we keep fish populations healthier and higher."

Angela Anastasi, a Havens mom, hopes that her son, Joey, also picked up more than trash from the event.

"I believe it's good for him to learn to be aware of the environment and to take care of the ocean by cleaning it up," she said.

SERVES hosts monthly tri-school weekend service opportunities for all elementary students and their families. Information is posted in the weekly elementary school newsletters.