

## FIELD TRIP TO CATALINA ISLAND – May, 2011

Every year our older students get to spend time away from school on overnight field trips.

In 2011, the 4<sup>th</sup> – 6<sup>th</sup> grade students were so excited to be spending 3 days and 2 nights at the Catalina Island Marine Institute at Fox Landing for their end of year field trip. They left Long Beach on the Catalina Express anticipating all the marine activities planned for them.

### Activities the students were involved in:

**Snorkeling;** learning to put on a wet suit and snorkel gear.

**Ocean Kayaking;** learning the basics of paddling while taking a coastal tour along the shoreline.

**Marine Lab:** a 3 hour introduction to the subjects of fish, invertebrates and the algae of Southern California through ID classification. Students were also introduced to marine mammals, their adaptation and survival strategies.

**Terrestrial Ecology Hike;** An aggressive hike used to explore the island's ecosystems, its flora and fauna, and local indigenous uses for both. Many games and activities are incorporated into the hike and used as learning tools.

**Astronomy:** night hike to look at constellations and planets from atop bluffs/hills at Fox Landing, often accompanied by legends and stories from around the world.

**Camp Fire:** A wonderful end to both days was at the campfire where they sang songs, played games, roasted marshmallows and ate smores and drank hot chocolate.

They had a blast of a time and returned to school with many wonderful memories.