

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact: Uschi De Rose

(714) 524-1350 ext. 111

Heritage Oak's seventh and eighth grade students head to Catalina Island

In early January, 2007, nearly seventy Heritage Oak seventh and eighth grade students headed to Catalina Island's Toyon Bay for a three day/two night adventure at the Catalina Island Marine Institute (CIMI). The objective of the trip was to provide students with first hand learning in the marine sciences.

Catalina Island is a wonderful place to explore. The underwater gardens are among the most beautiful in the world and the island environment is unusual and unique. The children embarked on a science adventure that provided instruction in marine science as well as island ecology, stimulating a curiosity for nature and to build treasured memories.

The CIMI program consists of a series of half-day activities that include snorkeling, island ecology hikes, and weather permitting, ocean kayaking. Upon arrival, students received a complete orientation on safety, the facility, and student responsibilities. Prior to each activity, students also received instruction on what to expect and how to use the equipment. They also participated in varied and unique labs and field activities within their own safe limits and under the care and supervision of trained CIMI instructors and the Heritage Oak chaperones.

The CIMI trip is an annually organized trip for all seventh grade students at Heritage Oak. This year it included eighth grade students as well.

Heritage Oak is a traditional school appealing to parents who are seeking a proven curriculum and a safe, nurturing environment. Community awareness, academic achievement, and family values are just part of a program that focuses on the development of the whole child.

The U.S. Department of Education bestowed its highest honor upon Heritage Oak when it awarded the school the 1998-1999 "Blue Ribbon" award. The "Blue Ribbon", our Nations most prestigious education award, distinguishes Heritage Oak for its excellence in leadership, teaching, curriculum, student achievement, parent involvement, and community support.