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**San Tan Learning  
Center**

# Press Release

## Local Charter School Participates in National Contest for Earth Day

### **Gilbert, Arizona, Wednesday, April 21, 2010:**

*You don't need to live near the ocean to care about it.* That's the message behind a world famous ocean muralist's efforts to inspire thousands of students around the nation to show off their art skills and concern for the future of our ocean planet.

San Tan Learning Center is one of 300 schools across the U.S. participating in a national art contest sponsored by the Wyland Foundation, Disneynature and Fredrix. The school's 3rd thru 5<sup>th</sup> grade class of 25 is creating a 5' x 10' ocean mural to celebrate Earth Day 2010 (April 22), and Environmental Education Week. The school whose mural best expresses the beauty of the ocean world and the need to protect it, will receive a grand prize from Wyland, Fredrix Artist Canvas and Disneynature's OCEANS. Home Depot, Gilbert and Superstition Springs, Mesa also contributed by donating materials.

Marine life artist Wyland, teaming up with the upcoming Disneynature motion picture OCEANS and Fredrix Art Canvas, will inspire more than 10,000 students across the nation for Earth Day to create life-size ocean murals, as part of a community campaign to raise awareness for ocean conservation. The goal of the movement, organizers say, is to inspire students everywhere to develop a better understanding of the ocean through art, science, and creativity. "Children are fascinated by the ocean no matter where they live," says Wyland, who is best known for his series of 100 monumental marine life murals around the world. "This campaign not only provides them with artistic tools to express their interest in marine life, but the murals share that message with communities that have a direct impact on these resources."

San Tan Learning Center, a local Pre-Kindergarten Montessori, and Kindergarten through 6<sup>th</sup> Grade Public Charter School has a number of other Earth Day activities planned. A special assembly will include student readings about recycling and why it is important to take care of the earth, reading sessions, a handprint banner, interactive games, dedication song and tree planting.

Classroom teacher, Ms. Rita Sippel explains, "We believe that teaching good stewardship of the Earth is very important. At San Tan it begins in preschool through Montessori inspired practical life activities and continues in K-5 through various character based activities throughout the year. This mural contest has given the students a great opportunity for balance and creativity during this week of state testing. The mural will be a beautiful keepsake for years to come and a constant reminder of each of our responsibility to take care of the world which we call home!"

**For Immediate Release**

**About Wyland**

Marine life artist Wyland has done more than any other artist to raise awareness of the beauty of life on our blue planet. His Wyland Foundation, in partnership with the Scripps Institution of Oceanography and the Ocean Institute of Dana Point, CA, is actively engaged in teaching millions of students around the country about our oceans, rivers, lakes, streams, and wetlands. His latest project, FOCUS (Forests, Oceans, Climate — and US) brings together the U.S. Forest Service, NOAA, the Wyland Foundation, and numerous non-profits to teach young people about our forests and ocean - and how these two irreplaceable resources hold the key to the future of our water supplies, climate, and global health. For more information, visit [www.wylandfoundation.org](http://www.wylandfoundation.org).

**About the Movie**

Disneynature, the studio that presented the record-breaking film "EARTH," brings OCEANS to the big screen on Earth Day, 2010. Nearly three-quarters of the Earth's surface is covered by water and OCEANS boldly chronicles the mysteries that lie beneath. Directors Jacques Perrin and Jacques Cluzaud dive deep into the very waters that sustain all of mankind—exploring the harsh reality and the amazing creatures that live within. Featuring spectacular never-before-seen imagery captured by the latest underwater technologies, OCEANS offers an unprecedented look beneath the sea in a powerful motion picture that unfolds on April 22, 2010. "See OCEANS, Save Oceans" is an initiative in which Disneynature will make a contribution to The Nature Conservancy to save coral reefs in honor of every guest who sees OCEANS during opening week (April 22-28, 2010). For more information, visit [disney.com/oceans](http://disney.com/oceans) or become a fan on Facebook: [facebook.com/Disneynature](http://facebook.com/Disneynature).

**About San Tan Learning Center**

San Tan Learning Center is a Pre-Kindergarten Montessori and Kindergarten through 6<sup>th</sup> Grade Public Charter School located at 1475 South Higley Rd., Gilbert, Arizona 85296. For more information about San Tan Learning Center please call: (480) 222-0811 or go to [www.santanlearningcenter.com](http://www.santanlearningcenter.com).

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