



## **Science: Grades Kindergarten through Fifth Mrs. C. Ludwig**

**Welcome to our 2009-2010 school year! We are blessed with a large, bright and well-equipped science lab which enables our children to explore and learn with a hands-on science curriculum. And, for a third year, we are most happy to welcome back Mrs. Jenny Bromley as our fulltime science aide.**

**Our science curriculum is enriched by our mobile computer lab which provides us with minute to minute earthquake and weather information from around the globe. Our fascination never ceases with the virtual field trips that bring our topic matter to life right before our eyes.**

**As the school year progresses, we will enjoy numerous onsite "field trips" including presentations from Save the Bay, the Department of Water and Power, and the Rock Hounds; with their fascinating display of fossils, skeletons, gems and rare rock formations. In the spring, 5<sup>th</sup> grade will visit the always amazing Griffith Observatory where we will be exposed to the wonders of our Universe.**

**We have a wide assortment of wonderful animals living in the science lab. Our pets provide a constant source of learning opportunities as we feed and care for our array of birds, frogs, fish, bearded dragons, and guinea pigs. As we observe their behaviors we continue to learn about their habitats, adaptations, sleep patterns and special needs.**

**Keep an eye on our Science Lab garden as we harvest past projects and begin germinating seeds and planting new crops of vegetables and flowers. The students are enthusiastic farmers and gardeners learning how to care for plants, what they need to prosper, and how their life cycles progress.**

**Soon our crop of caterpillars will arrive at the lab and we will begin observing their metamorphosis to butterflies. In the spring, we will gather tadpoles and patiently observed them as they gradually develop**

**legs and arms in their metamorphosis to frogs. Additionally, some grade level investigations will include various animal adaptations and food webs. Fourth graders will explore electricity. Third and Fifth graders will study fossil fuels and alternative energy sources. We will investigate weather and climate; the water cycle; the rock cycle; the solar system and space beyond.**

**The science curriculum at St. Bernardine of Siena is enhanced by ongoing experiments and demonstrations in the Science Lab. It is a wonderful hands-on environment that allows our students to pursue and grow in their love of science. Please come by to observe our children's work and projects over the coming months.**

**Parents, if you have any questions, or specific concerns regarding your child's science work, please contact me directly either via e-mail ([clodwig@stbernardine.org](mailto:clodwig@stbernardine.org)) or by calling the office (818-340-2130). I welcome appointments and conferences as we work together towards your child's academic success.**