



Vista Unified School District Service Learning Project Spring 2015

Aquaponics – Solutions For Change – Monte Vista Elementary

Fifth grade students at Monte Vista Elementary partnered with Solutions for Change to address a critical issue facing the community group's Solutions Farm. Fish waste and sediment builds up in the Solutions Farm aquaponics system and must be disposed of. Students worked in small groups to brainstorm and research strategies to repurpose this waste, keeping it out of local landfills. These solutions were presented to members of Solutions Farm and Dr. Vodicka.

Here are a couple of the steps students completed:

- Students took a field trip Solutions Farm to see to operation first hand..
- Students, working in groups, researched possible solutions.
- Small-scale experiments were conducted to research the effectiveness of the solution. These solutions included using shrimp, crickets, and worms to eat the waste and using the waste as fertilizer.
- The solutions were presented to Solutions Farm for possible implementation.



Through this project students were able to accomplish several Common Core and CTE standards, including:



- Plan and deliver an informative/explanatory presentation on a topic that: organizes ideas around major points of information, follows a logical sequence, includes supporting details, uses clear and specific vocabulary, and provides a strong conclusion.
- Use technology to produce, publish and update individual or shared writing products in response to ongoing feedback, including new arguments or information.

Turn to the next page to view students in action!

