

# ANNUAL 4TH GRADE WATER FAIR CELEBRATES SIXTH YEAR

*For Iron County Today*

**CEDAR CITY**—The Central Iron County Water Conservancy District (CICWCD) and Utah State University Extension (USU Extension) are hosting the sixth annual Water Fair for Iron County fourth graders, on March 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup>. Learning about water is part of the State fourth-grade curriculum. The Water Fair is designed to further expand on what students are learning in the classroom.

Angela Harker, a fourth-grade teacher from Escalante Elementary said, “I think the sooner students can learn about protecting our precious resources, the better. It will serve us all well to be aware of our impact on our environment and realize that we can all make a significant difference if we care to.”

---

After the Water Fair, students are more aware of how important our small amount of usable water is. Which is great, since the National Groundwater Association (NGWA) says only 0.3 percent of water on earth is usable for humans. The other 99.7 percent is in the oceans, soils, icecaps, and floating in the atmosphere. “Education about water is extremely important, especially in an area such as Cedar Valley”, said Jessica Staheli of CICWCD, “where groundwater is at a continual decline due to the fact that more water is being pulled from the aquifer, than is being put in each year.”

---

Education and awareness help us to live more environmentally conscious lives. Last year Utah experienced one of the warmest and driest years on record, but things are looking up this winter. As of February 22<sup>nd</sup>, Southwestern Utah had a snowpack measuring 174 percent of normal. Water experts from the across the state come together and teach the fourth graders. Each speaker teaches a different topic involving water. A highlight for the kids is when chemistry professors and students from Southern Utah University conduct water experiments. Many of the classes at the Water Fair have hands-on aspects to help engage students and increase understanding.

In the weeks leading up to the Water Fair, infographics with water fun facts are displayed at schools, and teachers are sent materials to study with their classes for Water Jeopardy. Water Jeopardy is a popular station at the Fair since the overall winning class gets a pizza party to celebrate. At the close of the Water Fair, each class receives a gift to help them continue to learn about the importance of water, including water cycle materials and experiments. Each student is also given toilet tablets to test for leaks in their homes. CICWCD and USU Extension are happy to celebrate six years of the Water Fair and educating our future generations about this precious natural resource. For more information or questions, contact CICWCD at 435-865-9901.