

A whale of a time

Greenfield kindergarten science lesson offers perspective on ocean behemoths

By Thomas Sumner
For The Salinas Californian

When it comes to learning about whales, Jennifer Sena's class of Greenfield kindergartners found out Wednesday that nothing beats the real thing. The students assembled a real, 25-foot grey whale skeleton while learning about how whales evolved from a land-loving prehistoric dog-like animal called a mesonychid.

The kindergarten students from Oak Avenue Elementary School in Green-

field assembled the "whale in a box" as part of a science activity put on at the newly founded Greenfield Community Science Workshop. The Community Science Workshop Network plans to start a similar program in Salinas within the next few years.

Each student at Oak Avenue Elementary has had the chance to visit the science center at least once since it opened at the beginning of the school year.

"I only get to see each class two or three times throughout the year, so I get to be like a grandpa and spoil them," said



Kindergartners look over their handiwork after helping to put together a grey whale skeleton Wednesday at Greenfield Community Science Workshop. THOMAS SUMNER/THE SALINAS CALIFORNIAN

event coordinator Jose Sanchez, 26. "We try to give them the best experience possible each time they come in."

For the past few years the Greenfield

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