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First Air Quality Flag Launched at Carrisa Plains Elementary School

On Tuesday, May 12, the APCD in partnership with the Carrisa Plains Elementary School flew the first Air Quality Flag in San Luis Obispo County. Using the color-coded scale according to the Air Quality Index, this flag program provides schools with enhanced tools to help children, their parents and school personnel become better informed on air pollution levels. School officials will fly the flag, which corresponds to the daily AQI forecast color, on the school flagpole. The APCD is now working to expand this Flag Program to school sites throughout the County. For more information contact Gary Arcemont at 805-781-5912.

The AQI was developed by the U. S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and is a user-friendly index for reporting daily air quality. It tells you how clean or polluted your air is, and what associated health effects might be a concern for you. The AQI focuses on health effects individuals may experience within a few hours or days after breathing polluted air. The AQI is currently available to the public via the APCD website www.slocleanair.org, email, pager messages and text messages. You can also sign up to receive the daily air quality forecast via email, page or text message by subscribing online at www.enviroflash.info/



APCD staff, Gary Arcemont, is pictured here with Carrisa Plains School teachers, Jenny Cruz and Teri Hillier and students from the kindergarten through six grade classes.



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