

**Life Cycle Project Reflection**  
**Rock Springs Elementary School**  
**Third Grade**

Dear Escondido Education Foundation,

I am incredibly grateful that the Life Cycle Project received funding! The project was an amazing way to keep learning alive during our last trimester of school. This project was originally projected to begin before spring break. However, due to academic scheduling restraints, I adjusted the plan to begin after spring break instead. This timeline change ended up being a great decision!

My students came to school every day eager to see their caterpillars, ladybug larvae, and plants. During Open House, my students proudly showed their parents their seedlings and taught them how to water the plants with care. They showed their parents the ladybug enclosure, and watched videos of the butterfly release. They also discussed their life cycle reports and what they learned about the living organisms in our classroom. The ladybugs and some of the plants are still in our classroom, and my students continue to care for them daily.

Our favorite part of the project was releasing the butterflies in our school garden. The TK students at our school joined my third grade class as we set the butterflies free. The butterflies left as they pleased. Some of the butterflies even decided to stay in their enclosure for a few extra days. They were not ready to leave my students behind.

This project was incredibly successful overall. I plan to use the same lessons and timeline next school year with adjustments based on the following reflections. This year we were unable to plant our flowers in the garden because many of the plants did not thrive in their seedling pots. Next year I would like to ensure that students plant their seeds in a better pot with sufficient support for the growing seedlings.

Additionally, the radishes were able to sprout in their pot, but would have grown much better in the ground. There is a garden bed outside of the fifth grade classrooms that needs to be refreshed. I would like to fix up the garden bed with the Rock Springs student leadership team so that there is a place for my future students to plant seeds directly in the ground.

My students have had an enriching end to their school year thanks to the Escondido Education Foundation and the Carilyn Gilbert Reading Award. Thank you again!

Sincerely,

Sarah Sandige