



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

ELEMENTARY STUDENTS WITH GARDEN AND NUTRITION TRAINING EXPAND THEIR EDUCATION WITH THE ULTIMATE FARM-TO-TABLE DINING EXPERIENCE AT A. R. VALENTIEN

LA JOLLA, CALIFORNIA
JANUARY, 2015



A few select **Sage Garden Project** students who have participated in the garden and nutrition education program at Ocean Knoll Elementary have been invited to experience a sophisticated tasting menu luncheon at the renowned *A. R. Valentien* at **The Lodge at Torrey Pines**.

The students have been learning to plan, care for, and harvest produce from their school garden, then sample the food they have prepared in the Sage Garden Project Nutritional Science Lab on their school campus. Now in their fourth year, the Sage Garden Project has been enriching lives with hands-on lessons, featuring the scientific aspects of the growing and preparation processes. Students are exposed to many new flavors, learning and practicing good manners, table conversation and developing practical life skills.

As one of Condé Nast's top ten Farm-to-Table restaurants and a San Diego landmark, A. R. Valentien was the ideal venue to host the students' introduction to a farm-fresh meal, executed to perfection by a classically trained Chef. The restaurant's long-term commitment to locally-sourced produce as well as local ranchers and fishermen makes it the perfect partner for this next step in the children's education.

"I'm planning to present these students with dishes that one would certainly not expect to find on a typical children's menu, and I'm looking forward to seeing how their palates and minds have been opened by this innovative program."

- Jeff Jackson, Executive Chef, *The Lodge at Torrey Pines*

The Sage Garden Project has earmarked \$500,000 for awards to bring this program to additional California Title 1 elementary schools in the fall of 2015. ~~PTAs~~ for schools needing lesson planning, guidance, training, and financial support should join the email list on the Sage Garden Project website.

The Sage Garden Project is an original program of The Anthony Cerami and Ann Dunne Foundation for World Health. It is aimed at reducing the incidence of obesity and type 2 diabetes in our youth by providing the tools, insight and inspiration for a lifetime of optimal health. It provides garden design and implementation, cooking facilities, lessons, planning, staff and support for select schools with at-risk students. Standards-based lessons come to life with hands-on, fun lessons in science, nutrition and health, centered in the garden.

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