

# VALLEY AIR NEWS



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## Healthy Air Living Schools and vehicle idling

Has your child's school signed up for the Healthy Air Living Schools Program?

Healthy Air Living Schools is designed to protect students from exposure to poor air quality while also teaching students, school personnel and parents about the air quality issues we face as residents of the San Joaquin Valley and how we all can make choices to reduce emissions.



How? The District provides tools and support to help Valley schools make informed decisions about outdoor activities in relation to air quality.

- **RAAN:** The Real-time Air Advisory Network provides Valley teachers, principals, administrators and the general public with easy access to hourly air quality information for their school's location. RAAN gives schools flexibility to make hourly decisions on the appropriateness of outdoor activity for their students.

- **ROAR:** The Real-time Outdoor Activity Risk Guidelines provide schools with suggestions on what type of outdoor activity level is appropriate based on the five different air quality levels within RAAN.



- **RAAN Widget:** Using the RAAN Widget allows up-to-the-hour, localized, air quality information to be delivered directly to a school website, making it easier and faster for teachers and administrators to access the information.

- **Support:** In addition to providing tools and materials, the District will train school officials and teachers on their use. The District also conducts presentations to schools, parents and teachers on air quality and other programs associated with Healthy Air Living Schools.

- **Tools:** When a Valley school signs up for the Healthy Air Living Schools program, they are provided with "No Idling" signs in both English and Spanish to place in their parking lots, asking parents not to idle their vehicles while waiting to pick up or drop off their children. Schools are also provided with bilingual brochures and posters for students and parents, explaining air quality, anti-idling and how to use RAAN (Real-time Air Advisory Network).

For more information on Healthy Air Living Schools and how to sign up, using RAAN or installing the widget, visit these sites:

- <http://healthyairliving.com/schools>
- <http://valleyair.org/raan>
- <http://valleyair.org/raan/widget/>

### School back in session

As students return to school, the District cautions parents of the harmful emissions that come from vehicle idling. This unnecessary practice not only produces noxious carbon monoxide in close proximity to children at the beginning and end of the school day, but also contributes to the formation of ground-level ozone. Unhealthy spikes in ozone pollution often take place when traffic and vehicle idling increase at the beginning of the school year.



For this reason, the District's anti-idling campaign is a major component of the Healthy Air Living Schools program. The District asks all parents to pay attention to "No Idling" signs in school parking lots and refrain from vehicle idling when dropping off and picking up their children at school.

## Healthy Air Living Kids' Calendar Contest is open



Now is the time for all Valley students, from kindergarten through 12th grade, to enter the District's annual contest for placement in the 2018 Healthy Air Living Kids' Calendar.

Each year, the District invites kids who live in the San Joaquin Valley to depict what they feel it means to live a "Healthy Air Life," by drawing a picture with clean-air messages in English or Spanish. Such messages may include, but are not limited to:

- Check Before You Burn
- Walk or ride your bike instead of driving
- Carpool
- Use an electric lawn mower instead of gas
- Drive Clean with an electric car
- Refrain from lighting fireworks on the 4th!
- Please don't idle your vehicle
- Ride the bus

These are just a few ideas that student artists may consider when deciding on a message for their calendar entry. The deadline to enter is Oct. 2, and all the information on how to enter is available at: <http://valleyair.org/kidscalendar>. Already have your entry done? Send it to: Valley Air District, Attn: Calendar Contest, 1990 E. Gettysburg Ave., Fresno, CA 93726.

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