



BLUEBIRD TRAIL AT DIXIE SCHOOL, MARCH 2009



Dear Dixie Families,

It is bluebird-nesting season again and the bluebirds at Dixie have begun building their nests. The three wooden boxes sitting on the hill behind the school office are part of the new/renewed Bluebird Trail started at the school by Ms. Simi and the Hungry Owl project. The boxes are vital in helping the Western Bluebird population grow as they provide the needed nesting cavities that have gotten scarce due to deforestation and development.

This year, the Bluebird Trail (5 boxes in all) will be monitored by Ms. Simi's class. Ms. Simi's class will check the boxes weekly, gathering data for the Bluebird recovery project of the Hungry Owl Project ([www.hungryowl.org](http://www.hungryowl.org)). You can find out more about the program on this web site.

Not only are these birds enjoyable to watch and hear, they are insectivores and consume pest insects such as mosquitoes. Research of similar programs across the nation has shown that setting up boxes helps the bluebird population grow.

The bluebird breeding season begins anywhere from mid-March to April and lasts through the summer months. It is vital that the bluebird boxes be respected and kept clean during this time to encourage the birds to use them. Our student monitors are learning how to carefully check each box and do what is needed to help the bluebirds nest there. Please respect and appreciate the boxes and birds at a distance as well as reporting any activity you see around the boxes to Ms. Simi via the school office.

