Arlington-Teosinte Sister City Project
PO Box 311
Arlington, MA 02174

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Dear Classroom Teachers,

The Arlington-Teosinte Sister City Project is sponsoring an elementary school art exchange in the Arlington public schools. Teosinte, El Salvador, Arlington's sister city is populated by approximately 350 people, over half of whom are children. The children of Teosinte express great interest in the children of Arlington, and it is our hope that this project will enable our schools to effectively present information and promote understanding of the lives of the children in Teosinte, and in general, the lives of other third world children.

The art exchange is open to all Arlington children in grades one through six. Enclosed in this packet you will find:
* a set of guidelines for the art exchange
* some information about Teosinte and life in El Salvador which you can share with your students.
In addition, each school will receive a set of drawings done by children in Teosinte. These drawings can be used by individual teachers in the classroom, or displayed in a common area in the school.

We are working on this project with the approval of the Superintendent's office, and with the assistance of Mr. Gerry Thibodeau and the art department. In addition, _____ has agreed to serve as a coordinator for this project at your school. She/he will answer specific questions about the project, and will collect your artwork for the deadline of April 14.

We understand that not all teachers will be able to participate in this project. If you do choose to participate, you can either use the art exchange as a one lesson project, or incorporate it into a more involved session about life in El Salvador, and third world countries in general. If you are interested in doing any sort of extended lesson on Teosinte, we can provide you with additional written materials, and with a speaker who has visited Teosinte and will show slides to your class. We also have some traditional Salvadoran craft items available for classroom display. It is hoped that once children hear about the lives of the children of Teosinte, they will begin to produce artwork that either tells