

ROUTE 70 GODDARD SCHOOL COUNTS DOWN TO *EARTH DAY*

March 15, 2011

On Saturday, March 26th, 2011, at 8:30 PM, local time, millions of people around the world will voluntarily turn off their lights for one hour The *Earth Hour* in a global call to action on climate change. In preparation for this event, children at The Route 70 Goddard School, in Toms River, NJ, www.goddardschool.com/Schools/Toms-River-II-NJ/Schools.gsp, will join with other children at more than 365 other Goddard Schools nationwide in a week of learning activities about saving energy and the environment.

During next week, the week of 3/21, the children and their teachers will participate in a variety of *fun activities*, games and lessons designed to increase their awareness of how energy use and their daily activities can influence the future of our planet -- and how they can conserve energy in their everyday lives. The week will end with a big **Stepping Up for the Environment** event on March 25th at 10 AM., a day before the global Earth Hour event, when Goddard Schools nationwide will turn off all non-essential lighting for one hour.

"This Earth Hour event is a very real and visible demonstration of the power of a grassroots commitment," says Mr. Ray, owner of The Goddard School®, located at 255 Route 70. "Our teachers, by working with the children in the week before the event, will try to help them to understand the significance of Earth Hour, to feel that they are a part of this worldwide effort, and to share the message about this important initiative with their families and the whole community."

In the days leading up to this **Stepping Up for the Environment** event, teachers at The Goddard School, in Toms River, will integrate learning about the environment into all aspects of the pre-schools curriculum, including art projects, science lessons and even snack time! Some classes will even elect a student, as their official "lightning bug," who will be responsible for always turning off the lights when the children exit the classroom.

"We believe that Earth Hour presents an exciting opportunity for both our teachers and children to take a creative approach to raising awareness about energy conservation and protecting the environment," says Mr. Ray. "The lessons that our children learn today will hopefully mold their lives for years to come."

Earth Hour began in Sydney, Australia back in 2007, when two million individuals and two thousand businesses took a stand on climate change by turning off their lights for one hour on a Saturday in March. In three years, according to the World Wildlife Fund, one of the primary sponsors of the event, Earth Hour has grown into the greatest environmental action in history. And last year, in 2010, individuals, businesses and governments in 128 countries joined in the event, and more than 1000 of the worlds man-made marvels and natural wonders, including the Pyramids in Egypt, Eiffel Tower, Empire State Building, Niagara Falls, Beijings Forbidden City, Cape Towns Table Mountain, the Sydney Opera House, Buckingham Palace and the statue of Christ in Brazil, stood in darkness symbolizing a landmark moment in the planets environmental consciousness.