

GODDARD SCHOOL'S LITTLE LEARNERS JOIN GLOBAL EARTH HOUR INITIATIVE

BY LAURIE LEVOY • STAFF WRITER • APRIL 2, 2010



Preschoolers at this Goddard School are joining World Wildlife Fund's 2010 Earth Hour, the culmination of a weeklong program of activities to inculcate the kids in "greenness." (Ed Pagliarini / MyCentralJersey)

WARREN — Twenty children enrolled in the Goddard School® of Warren's prekindergarten and kindergarten class have concluded a week of activities by counting down to "The Big Switch," when all the lights in the King George Road facility were turned off for one hour.

By throwing the switch at 10 a.m., the children took a stand for action on global warming as participants in a worldwide initiative called the World Wildlife Fund Earth Hour.

"We spent the week talking about saving energy, the importance of recycling and what it means to take responsibility for the Earth's environmental well-being,"

said Felicia Jackson, director of the Goddard School, which joined more than 150 other Goddard Schools nationwide in Earth Hour activities on March 26.

The school's Earth Hour event was more a preamble to the worldwide Earth Hour on March 27. First organized in 2007 by the World Wildlife Fund in Sydney, Australia, the event has come to attract the participation of 126 countries and territories — or in terms of people power, more than one billion individuals who pledged to turn off nonessential lighting and other electrical conveniences for one hour at 8:30 p.m. (local time) March 27.

As part of a special morning of activities, Caitlin Hunter, both an assistant director and prekindergarten teacher, and Tina Orlando, the kindergarten teacher, led the children to a performance area to present an Earth Hour skit for the school's 60 other youngsters.

"We sang a song about keeping the Earth clean and green to the tune of "This Little Light of Mine," said Hunter, humming a few bars of the melody.

Each child also provided an energy conservation tip: One suggested walking instead of riding in a car to save energy, said Monasi Sovani, the school's other assistant director.

Si Pae, owner of this Goddard School for eight years, said the school's Earth Hour program is a serious undertaking.

"We took part in Earth Hour last year," Pae said. "Our kids have to be aware of the Earth's environmental challenges, from the earliest ages."