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EARTH DAY LESSON HAS MUSICAL TONE AT GODDARD SCHOOL IN CONCORD

By Caitlin Fertal • March 25, 2011

It might not be the first, and certainly not the last, rock performance hosted at The Goddard School® in Concord Township, but this one blew away the preschool crowd Thursday morning.

The 5-year-old kindergartners constructed their own instruments — ranging from rainsticks to a kazoo — out of reusable household materials to learn about and celebrate Earth Day.

The students made rainsticks out of paper, rice and bird seed, drums out of plastic jars and paper and guitars from plastic food containers and rubberbands — and a little imagination, of course.

Carter and his twin brother, Ethan, made matching guitars from tissue boxes, rubberbands, paper towel rolls and a bit of newspaper stuffed inside.

“I copied Carter,” Ethan said with a smile.

Fellow kindergartner Will had fun making his guitar, he said, even though it “sounds horrible!”

The students were proud to show off their list of why it’s important to recycle.

Two reasons were “to keep the Earth healthy” and to “make less garbage.”

Heather Robinson, who teaches one of the classes, said the children are really taking home the message to recycle.

“We’ve been really stressing reusing things to reduce that garbage, and it has made an impact on quite a bit of them,” Robinson said.

“A lot of their parents have been telling me, ‘we can’t throw anything away now.’ “

The students spent Monday and Tuesday learning about reducing, reusing and recycling, how they can help improve their neighborhood and spent a little time picking up trash outside the school, Director Leanne Mastropietro said.

The whole week of activities led up to the “lights out” hour that the school is participating in today to support the efforts of the World Wildlife Fund’s 2011 Earth Hour.

The Earth Hour takes place at 8:30 p.m. Saturday, when people around the world are asked to turn off their lights for one hour to create awareness of climate change and conservation, the World Wildlife Fund stated.

At the school, the lights will be turned off for one hour, along with the lights of more than 370 Goddard Schools nationwide to conserve electricity, Mastropietro said.

The students will host a fashion show during the lights-out hour and illuminate the runway with flashlights.

The costumes will be made from newspapers, paper bags and magazines, Mastropietro said.