



PUPILS FROM MEDINA SEE THE LIGHT IN DARKENED CLASSROOMS

BY JENNIFER KARPUS • SUN NEWS/APRIL 08, 2010



Mitchel S., left, Keon J., and Drew H., all 6, created clothing with matching headgear to wear during the fashion show. (Jennifer Karpus/Sun News)

For one hour on a recent Saturday night, hundreds of millions of people around the globe turned off their lights to stand united in their call to conserve energy. Locally The Goddard School® in Medina used the event as the basis for a week's worth of activities, ending in their own hour without lights on Friday.

"It was amazing for them to truly see how they can help with environmental impact," said Joy Parker, assistant education director at the Goddard School in Medina.

"Overall, I think they really enjoyed just using their recycled materials."

Students range from 6 months to age 6 years old.

Kindergarten students worked all week on making clothing from newspaper for a fashion show they held on March 26 during the darkened hour. Flashlights were used to illuminate the children as they walked down the runway — which was built from recycled material.

"We had lots of parents here," Parker said. "All our pre-school children watched the fashion show."

Jeff Brandon, a Montville Township trustee, had the honors of throwing the switch for the school's lightless hour.

Brandon spent time with students asking them questions and learning about the efforts they had put in throughout the week.

"He came in and visited a few of the children," Parker said. "He was there for their fashion show also."

The infants and toddlers were also hard at work during the week doing their part.

Young children used materials to create new toys and games. Older students also worked together to create new ways to use tired materials.

"They worked together to build something out of recycled material," Parker said about the students. "They built towers with things, they've made musical instruments."

In all, more than 108 students participated in the weeklong environmental classroom activities.

Children also had a chance to participate in the real Earth Hour on Saturday night at home.

"I know there were some families who were planning on participating," Parker said.

Students can take the knowledge they learn during the week and can apply it yearlong. Students who participated in the event have continued using recycled material to create new products.