

# Young students model examples for community to protect Earth

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Comparable to a much smaller scale version of the United Nation's conference in Rio de Janeiro, Bells Corners Public School hosted its own Earth Summit last Friday (April 18).

"We want to raise awareness among the students to protect the planet that they will be living in the future," said Sarah Groskleg, Earth Summit team leader and language learning disability teacher at Bells Corners Public School (BCPS).

The event aims to engage both the school's students and surrounding community to take steps in creating a more environmentally friendly area.

Ms. Groskleg said the idea began when she attended a regular meeting with other schools in the Ottawa-Carleton District School Board (OCDSB) that are part of Earth Care Canada.

Last year, a school had done an assembly on Earth Day, but she said she thought she would take it a step further and create a summit because it would be a more hands-on approach for the students.

"The OCDSB is part of Earth Care Canada and each school does its best to conserve energy and promote protecting the environment," said Ms. Groskleg. "We have a motto called 'LOCO' which stands for



Young students at Bells Corners Public School display their love for preserving the environment, as part of the school's Earth Summit, held last week.

'lights off, computers off' when they are not in use."

BCPS also has an established Earth Care Team, which enforces this motto as well as the recycling program.

The summit began in the morning and focused on showing students the importance of taking responsibility into their own hands and becoming active in preserving the Earth through simple,

daily activities.

"The school was divided into three different divisions with four classes in each that rotated to different rooms where each teacher presented an activity," said Ms. Groskleg. "Some were recycling demonstrations, craft projects, stories, or planting activities."

With events such as this educating the community's youth, the school hopes it will serve as motivation for

other members and residents to become active. Beginning with their own students, they hope to facilitate change and improvement.

"We're hoping that they are engaged in fun activities and become conscious that they have power to make a change now and motivate them for the future and acknowledge that they produce waste and should be excited about protecting the Earth," Ms. Groskleg said.

## Show the city through your eyes

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Doors Open Ottawa invites you to show us the city through your eyes.

Amateur photographers are encouraged to submit photos that capture the beauty, innovation, and history of Ottawa buildings.

Why not take inspiration from this year's theme: "Ottawa goes green"?

The winner will receive custom framing of the winning photograph valued at \$400, provided by Frames by Rockwell as well as a \$100 gift certificate. The photo will be displayed at one of our participating buildings from June 2 to 9, 2008. It will also be posted on our official website [ottawa.ca/doorsopen](http://ottawa.ca/doorsopen) and included in our e-newsletter, Foot in the Door.

The deadline for contest submissions is Friday, May 9, 2008.

Visit [www.ottawa.ca/doorsopen](http://www.ottawa.ca/doorsopen) or visit our Flickr group at [www.flickr.com/groups/doorsopenottawa](http://www.flickr.com/groups/doorsopenottawa) for contest rules.



## eCycle this Saturday

Key to respecting the environment is forming the habit of holding off on throwing out old electronics until an eCycling drive.

Electronics often contain useful materials such as precious metals, glass, and plastics, which should be recovered rather than buried.

Bring your obsolete electronics to the Ottawa Waste Management Facility this Saturday morning.

Here's a list of acceptable eCycling items:

- Computers, Keyboards
- PDAs, Phones, Pagers
- Kids' toys
- Gameboys, etc
- Laptops, Printers
- Office machines, including photocopiers
- Alarm clocks

No TVs please.

Saturday, April 26, 2008

9:00 am to noon

**Ottawa Waste Management Facility**

2301 Carp Road (at the Queensway)

[www.wastemanagementottawa.ca](http://www.wastemanagementottawa.ca)

For more information, contact Cathy Smithe at (613) 831-3567

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