

Youngsters embrace the spirit of Earth Day



Fourth-grader Luke Davis carefully records his data.
Photo/Frany Thorne

One day wasn't enough to celebrate the Earth. At the magnet school in Meyers the students embraced a week of activities.

The theme last week was Plant Your Seed.

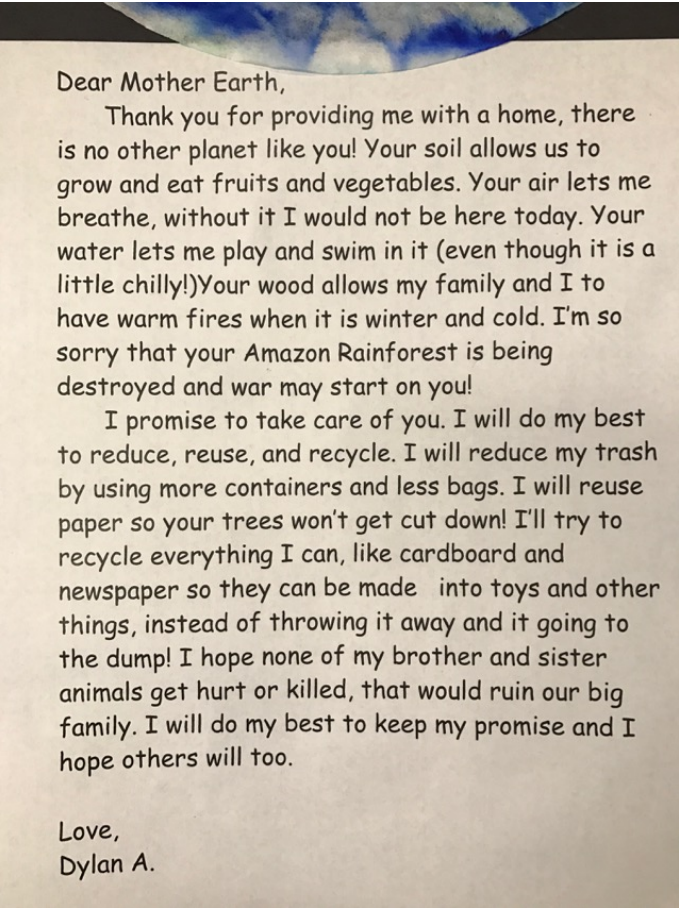
Earth Day has been celebrated on April 22 since 1970. It started in the United States; now more than 190 countries recognize this as an opportunity to take stock in what is going on environmentally with the world or in individual locations throughout the world.

Each day something different took place at the magnet school:

Monday: Students took an Earth Day pledge and each class participated in a school yard clean up.



Second-grader Briley Zlendick dissects a Lima bean. Photo/Frany Thorne



Dear Mother Earth,

Thank you for providing me with a home, there is no other planet like you! Your soil allows us to grow and eat fruits and vegetables. Your air lets me breathe, without it I would not be here today. Your water lets me play and swim in it (even though it is a little chilly!) Your wood allows my family and I to have warm fires when it is winter and cold. I'm so sorry that your Amazon Rainforest is being destroyed and war may start on you!

I promise to take care of you. I will do my best to reduce, reuse, and recycle. I will reduce my trash by using more containers and less bags. I will reuse paper so your trees won't get cut down! I'll try to recycle everything I can, like cardboard and newspaper so they can be made into toys and other things, instead of throwing it away and it going to the dump! I hope none of my brother and sister animals get hurt or killed, that would ruin our big family. I will do my best to keep my promise and I hope others will too.

Love,
Dylan A.

A letter to Mother Earth by second-grader Dylan Anton, who is in Frany Thorne's magnet school class.

Tuesday: Book swap – students in each grade brought books to trade with others in a school-wide book swap.

Wednesday: Waste free lunch – This was a school-wide effort to reduce waste; students were encouraged to pack their lunches using reusable containers and fewer wrapped items.

Thursday: Lights out day – This was a school-wide effort to conserve electricity. Classrooms and hallways were filled with natural light from the windows, lessons took place outside, and each teacher made an effort to use less.

Friday: Labs – Each class participated in a hands-on science lab. Labs were carefully designed to follow the Next Generation Science Standards while also sticking to the Plant Your Seed theme.

“The goal of the week was to reinforce the importance of conserving our Earth. We had a very successful week and hope to foster the ‘Every day is Earth Day’ slogan in our actions,” second-grade teacher Frany Thorne told *Lake Tahoe News*.

– *Lake Tahoe News staff report*