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Schools Celebrate 39th Anniversary of Earth Day

Schools go green for Earth Day with eco-friendly activities

By **MEGAN K. SCOTT** Associated Press Writer

The Associated Press

NEW YORK April 8, 2009 (AP)

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No need to worry about the kids not going green.



This photo released by Chesterbrook Academy shows Jaxson Boney releasing a ladybug in this April 22, 2008

Schools across the country are celebrating Earth Day with tree plantings, recycling displays and lessons on energy and water conservation. Some are shutting off the lights for the day, while others are sending kids into the community to spread environmentally friendly messages.

Here's what some schools are doing to mark the 39th anniversary of Earth Day, which is on April 22.

Montessori Academy of Chicago

It's lights out for Montessori Academy of Chicago. The school

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photo, during the school's annual Earth Day Ladybug

Release. (AP Photo/Chesterbrook Academy)

(AP)

with 185 students, from six weeks to 9 years old, is shutting off

the lights for the day to teach kids and their parents energy

conservation. About 75 students ages 3-6 will also build

sculptures with rocks, leaves, and sticks in a nearby park and learn about Midwestern trees from a local arborist.

"The more our students interact with the world around them, the more they can appreciate what the earth has to give us," said Stacey Edwards, educational coordinator.

The Goddard School for Early Childhood Development, Pond Road location in Freehold, N.J.

About 25 4-year-olds will learn about water pollution when they toss the trash from their lunches into a giant container of water. The students will observe what happens to the water in a few hours. 'What will the fish and frogs think if they are living in this water?' Their teacher will also read them "Our Class is Going Green!" a book written by Oklahoma kindergartners with easy things kids can do to protect the environment.

"We hope they learn that they have to preserve our water, preserve our land for years to come," said director Shelly Berkal.

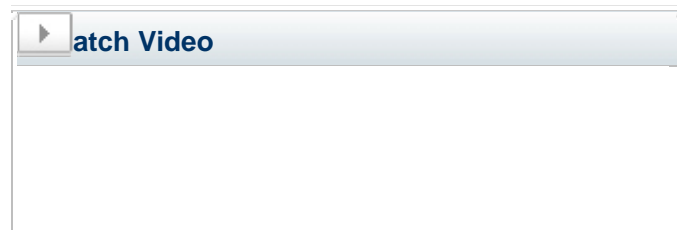
Chesterbrook Academy in Columbia, S.C

Chesterbrook Academy is holding its 16th annual "Ladybug Release." The 175 pre-K and kindergartners will each receive a handful of ladybugs, recite a poem and then release the insects into the environment. The kids have been learning about ladybugs, which eat aphids — plant lice — and other insects that are harmful to trees, shrubs and plants. The kids will also decorate T-shirts and hats with "Earth Day" messages and will wear them for the big event.

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