



# Earth Day Extravaganza!

Written by the students of Room 36

April 22, 2010

## Icky, Awesome Worms

We all like to have really nice gardens with healthy, beautiful plants and the only way to make sure we do this is by having helpful worms and fertile (healthy) soil. How does fertile soil help plants grow? Most producers (plants that make food) grow by taking in nutrients from the soil. Mostly soil has some combination of sand, silt, clay, and regular matter. In the middle of the soil, they determine which nutrients are available for plants. How do worms help soil stay healthy? When temperatures drop or soil gets too hot or dry, worms know what to do. If it begins to get cold, they may tunnel. As they burrow through the dirt, earthworms create holes and channels that help to loosen the soil, allowing air to circulate (circle around the roots). Roots and water start to penetrate (to pass into or through) the soil more easily. The earthworms tend to live in permanent holes up to as deep as three meters below the top of the soil. They drag food such as plants into their homes. The worms help bring down organic (natural) matter from the top of the ground and mix it with the soil below. If there are 500,000 worms living in an area of soil, they can make 50 tons of castings (worm poop). This also helps to make the soil healthy. In conclusion, always make sure your gardens are healthy and beautiful.

*By Rocio and Lupe*



## Did They Spill the Oil Again?

Oil spills are happening every day. An oil spill is a flow of oil. A boat causes an oil spill when it wrecks and oil comes out of the ship. This is a big problem because it is killing animals. Also, birds can't fly because they have dried oil on their wings. We are polluting the air we breathe, so we can't breathe it. What can we do about it? Here are some examples to use less oil: walking, riding your bike, and not using motor vehicles (cars and trucks). Also, wind power, waterpower, and solar power stop oil spills because they keep us from using coal (oil) powered energy. Use less oil, recycle, and use less plastic (also made from oil) to save animals and yourself. In conclusion, oil spills are not good for animals and our air so STOP USING OIL!

*By Cody and Migel*

## Jurassic Fuel

Imagine we all ran out of fossil fuels right now. We will not be prepared for the outcome of not having them. Fossil fuels are non-renewable (limited) sources of energy that come from dinosaur bones. We use them for many things such as most household appliances, gasoline, and plastic. That's right, plastic is made out of oil too. The problem is that we're polluting (ruining) our planet Earth, because we are using too much of our supply of fossil fuels and burning up holes in the o-zone layer (atmosphere) and it is polluting our air. What we can do? We can put solar panels on our roofs to make clean energy. Scientists have also made a new fuel made of corn and sugar cane juice called Ethanol. We can also help by recycling, reusing bottles of water, and by putting plastic, Styrofoam, and cans in recycling. When we recycle, we aren't digging for new resources. It's important to save our fossil fuels for when we actually need them. Instead use solar, water, and wind power.

*By Spencer and Juan*