



# Earth Day Extravaganza 2011

Written by the students of Room 36 – Ms. York

## Living it Green

Did you know homes are using too much energy? We can save energy by building homes that are good for the environment. Eco homes do just that. Eco homes are made from materials that we would usually throw away. They are mostly made from recycled things like plastic, cordwood, stone, and adobe. They run on good energy sources such as wind turbines and solar panels. They use VOC paint. This is paint that doesn't give off toxic fumes. Some normal homes can give off toxic fumes. Some fumes can even cause cancer. Even if you do or don't have an eco home, you can still use less energy by opening windows, turning off lights, and even using green cleaning products. Eco homes can make a difference to save energy and so can all the rest of our homes.

*By Brian H. and Ashlynn B.*



## Winged Creatures

Did you know bats save farmers 3.7 billion dollars in pest control yearly? Bats are flying mammals that have four limbs. Some are as small as mice and others have wings as big as human arms. Scientists think diseases in caves are causing bats to die. The fungus named White Nose Syndrome is making bats die which makes the farmers have to spray more bug spray. The fungus grows on the bat's wing and makes holes in its wing. It also causes bats to have pain which makes them wake before spring time and then they starve to death. Farmers need bat guano (poop) to fertilize their crops and plants. A chemical in bat guano is used as fertilizer to make plants grow. It makes soil rich in nutrients and minerals. Since the 1980s, Americans made bat houses to save the bats. They put them in forests, parks, and back yards. So next time you see a bat, leave it alone.

*By Andres V. and Alberto R.*



## Oil Disasters

Did you know that some oil spills happen on purpose? Sometimes workers throw oil into the ocean because the sea captain tells them to clean out the tanks! How awful is that? If we help by cleaning or preventing spills, we can make a difference in the world. The problem is that there's a lot of oil spills. There's going to be fewer animals in the land, air, and oceans if this keeps happening. Also, if oil is spilling, we can't use it to make items like ink, tires, soap, sweaters, car parts, refrigerators, telephones, life jackets, glue, etc. We can help by not using so much oil or by cleaning up oil. What causes oil spills? Oil spills could be caused by ship leaks, ship crashes on reefs, or workers making mistakes. We could prevent oil spills by using less electricity because electricity is often produced by burning oil. Another way to prevent oil spills is to use less gasoline in our cars because it is also made out of oil. Oil tankers should have doubled hulls (two pipes in a ship that hold the oil) because if one gets damaged, they would still have the other to hold the oil. In the end, scientists are learning how to prevent oil spills from happening and also how to clean them up.

*By Bertha J. and Braeden T.*