

Comal Independent School District

NEWS RELEASE

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40th Earth Day celebrated at CES

Shoppers at HEB in Garden Ridge will get more than they bargained for when they answer the question, 'paper or plastic?' on the 40th anniversary of Earth Day.



Comal Elementary

School's Earth Day project will reach the homes of many local shoppers as its students celebrated by decorating 400 paper grocery bags made with recycled material that were donated by HEB.

Students in grades K-5 first brainstormed about different ways to improve the environment, and then drew symbols of their ideas on the bags, which were returned to HEB in time to distribute to customers during Earth Day on April 22.

Some of the ideas students came up with included installing water-saving devices on faucets, recycling paper and plastic, picking up trash, planting a tree or garden, turning off lights and turning computers off when they're not in use.

"I think Earth Day is important because it reminds kids that our planet is precious and that we need to take care of it," said CES fourth grade teacher Karen Whitman. "The kids thought of simple things that everyone can do to help our environment and put a lot of pride and effort into decorating their grocery bags. They are honored that their bags will be given to customers at HEB."

Many CES teachers read their students environmentally-themed books before the brainstorming began. Whitman and several others chose, "Our Class is Going Green," a Scholastic Book Fair contest grand prize winner, which was

written by Joyce Nickels' kindergarten class at Oak Park Elementary in Bartlesville, OK.

"I learned a lot from this assignment," said CES student Logan Riley. "I think the most important thing I learned is how important it is that we take measures to stop global warming. You can help by doing something as easy as planting a tree."

"We were super-excited to partner with Comal Elementary," said HEB unit director Evelyn Gregorczyk. "We're absolutely proud of these students, and we think the message it will send to the entire community will be phenomenal."

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IN PHOTOS: Comal Elementary student Anna Hnatow is in deep concentration mode as she works on decorating her grocery bag, which will be delivered to HEB customers in Garden Ridge on Earth Day.

Comal Elementary students (l-r) Adam Regan, Logan Riley and Bailey Zibelin are hard at work decorating environmentally-themed grocery bags for HEB's Earth Day celebration.

Students in Karen Whitman's class at Comal Elementary proudly show off their decorated grocery bags shortly before they are delivered to HEB in Garden Ridge to be handed out to customers in honor of the 40th anniversary of Earth Day.