



Celebrating Earth Day

MARGARET HOBBS
Mini Standard editor
McMinnville, Tennessee

Earth Day is the day we celebrate our Earth and its wonderful glory. Earth Day is a special day started in April, 1970 in San Francisco. Over 100 countries join together on April 22 for the observance.

Earth Day is the largest, most celebrated environmental event worldwide. It's a great day to reflect on our planet, our environment, and what we need to do to make our planet a better place.

Boyd Christian School second-grade students in Donna Newby's class have completed several Earth Day projects, and a classroom session on the subject. With assistance from art teacher Judy Henson, the children have made bird houses, and painted them in bright colors. They also made hanging planters from two-liter plastic bottles and filled them with lovely spring flowers. The older students at Boyd are participating in a water bottle recycling project, with them making a sculpture from the bottles collected in one week.

"We decided to include the entire school in our Earth Day

projects," said Henson. "We are going to place a hanging pot filled with flowers on each classroom door to beautify the school."

The students discussed the three R's of the environment: reduce, reuse and recycle. With Americans disposing of 40 billion food and drink cans, 27 billion glass bottles and jars, and 65 million plastic and metal jar and can covers, it's time to evaluate what is happening to our earth.

"Don't throw away things that can be reused," said Britain Ralph. "If you just throw your garbage out, your yard will look like a dump."

All the students agreed that we, as a nation, should take care of our Earth for future generations.

Newby advised her students to put down their digital devices and just get outside.

"I tell them to go outdoors and enjoy their environment," said Newby. "There are many outdoor activities, and lots of fun ways to enjoy nature."

Here are a few ideas on how families can observe Earth Day:

- Plant a tree or shrub.
- Go for a bike ride or a nature walk, leaving the vehicle at home.
- Have a nature scavenger

hunt, where you find items usually found outdoors.

- Place Post-It notes around the house reminding everyone about saving water and energy. They can be viewed as positive reminders that bring about conversations.

- Make a cookie and decorate it to look like Earth.

- Plan a litter pick-up session either at school or in your neighborhood.

- Start recycling in your home.

- Look around the house and find items you do not need or use and donate them to a local charity shop.



Margaret Hobbs photos
Porter Hancock uses his painting skills on a birdhouse he made in art class. Helping with the project is seventh-grade student **Ella Simmons**.

At left, if I had a hammer ... I would make a birdhouse. Second-grader **Madison Hobbs** tries her best to hammer a nail into a birdhouse, with the help of art teacher **Judy Henson**.