

CHIS students get worldly

COVENTRY — It was a busy day at Coventry High School on Monday.

Some students heard singers from across the world while others took part in a worldwide event.

The Orthodox Singers from Estonia performed a special concert for a select group of students.

Lisa Masse, one of the music teachers at Coventry High School, arranged for the concert. Masse is a member of the Chorus of Westerly, a group that hosted the Orthodox Singers' visit to the United States. Through this connection, she said, she was offered the opportunity to host a concert at the school by the renowned group. She was delighted by the opportunity, Masse said.

"This is music that these kids would never in a million years get to experience," Masse said. "It's spiritual and also used for meditation, but the kids really seem to like it."

Lexi McGuirk and Bethany Mochrie, both seniors at the school who were a part of the audience on Monday said they enjoyed the performance. Although the music was unique, they said, they found it "soothing and relaxing."

In addition to her music students, Masse said, she also invited the world language department and their students and some of the senior literature students to come to the performance.

"We couldn't have the entire school come, so I chose to invite classes that it would fit into their curriculum," Masse said. "Some of these chants that they perform are over 2,000 years old, so there is some real history to be recognized here."

Meanwhile, there was an entirely different group of students outside the school building participating in another worldly event.

Students in Peter Stetson's Period 1 biology class were planting a tree along the memorial walkway outside the school as part of the ENO tree planting event. ENO, Environment Online, is a global virtual school for environmental awareness and sustainable development.

Stetson said he learned about the tree planting campaign, known as the "Billion Tree Campaign,"

through his involvement in ENO and thought the campaign would be something interesting for students to participate in.

He mentioned the idea to the school's principal, Michael Hobin, he said, secured permission, purchased a tree — an Aristocrat Pear — and then signed on to participate in the campaign.

He and his students were given a noontime planting time by ENO. At the tree planting event, which his students, the school principal and others participated in, Stetson spoke about what it was they were doing, beyond just planting a tree and why they were doing it.

“We plant a tree today, on the autumn equinox, together with hundreds of schools and community organizations around the world,” he said. “To-

day, the first trees were planted in Oceania, then, following the sun, trees will be planted in Asia, Europe, and Africa. The last trees will be put into the earth in North, Central and South America

“About 1,000 schools in 100 countries are planting trees with us and over 300,000 trees will be planted around the earth today,” he said. “A tree is a symbol for us; it reminds us of nature and the importance of environmental protection. It also symbolizes our cooperation between schools around the world.

“We support cultural diversity and tolerance and, as it is International Day for Peace, we mark these trees as peace trees,” Stetson said. “We hope to grow together with our trees in the future for the future.”