

# Earth Day Every Day

## Hopkins Hill celebrates Earth Day on nicer day

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COVENTRY — Fifth-grade students at Hopkins Hill Elementary in Coventry spread their lesson of helping the Earth through posters and passing the word along to clean up while cleaning the school grounds with the lower grades.

Donna Raptakis, a fifth-grade teacher at Hopkins Hill, said she and her students had class discussion about ways they could do their part to help keep the environment clean.

“The clean-up was meant to take place on Earth Day in April but the weather was so poor that we decided to hold off,” she said. “It was the students’ idea to do something where they could make a difference so they wanted to make posters depicting what they can do to help and they also wanted to clean up the school grounds and plant flowers so, on this day, a half day, we’re getting it all done.”

Fifth-grader Patience Beaucate learned how important it is to reduce pollutants by recycling as



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ABOVE: Winners of the poster contest (l-r): Giorgia Marani (first grade), Abby Choquette (third grade), Autumn Mongeau (second grade), Rania Chartier (fourth grade) and Samantha Lantagne (fifth grade) with (back row, l-r) fifth-grade teacher Donna Raptakis, Coventry School Committee member Dave Florio, Coventry School Committee Chairwoman Judy Liner and Representative Lisa Tomasso, dist. 29, Coventry, West Greenwich



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# Earth Day in May at Hopkins Hill

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much as possible.

"When we recycle, that's less trash that we're letting into the environment and so that's less pollutants in the air," she said.

Hayden St. Germain, another fifth-grader, said his first thought when he sees trash on the side of the road is to pick it up.

"I see so much and I know I can't get it all but picking up even a small amount is a help," he said. "It's like having an Easter egg hunt but with trash."

Sarah Henault takes care of her environment by saving electricity.

"My sister leaves lights on all the time, so I go around shutting them off," she said.

The poster contest was open to all students in grades one through five with Coventry School Committee Vice Chairwoman Judi Liner, Coventry School Committee member Dave Florio and District 29 Representative Lisa Tomasso were on-hand to judge one winner from each grade.

"I think it's a wonderful project and I thank all the children for all their hard work," Liner said. "It's a wonderful way to integrate content into a project."

"We all benefit when people young and old, take an active role in caring for the



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**Hopkins Hill Fifth-graders (l-r) Patience Beaucate, Hayden St. Germain and Sarah Henault proudly hold their posters yesterday at the school's Earth Day celebration, held over for a month by weather.**

Earth," she said. "It is wonderful to see young people so excited and passionate about conservation and stewardship. The living environments around us serve as filters for Earth. I am very proud of our students at Hopkins Hill as well as the parents and teachers who have encouraged them."

Florio, who said he loved the creativity

all the students expressed in their posters, said the fact that they are so in tune to what's happening in their environments is inspiring.

"These kids did a great job and expressed themselves very well through their work," he said. "I give credit to everyone who encourages these kids."