



Hamagrael -- Earth Week 2010



Thursday, April 22 is the 40th Anniversary of Earth Day

Earth Day was started in the U.S. in 1970 as a result of a growing public awareness of the negative impacts of pollution on public health and the environment. Today, Earth Day is celebrated throughout the world as a day to reflect on the need conserve and protect Earth's natural resources.

Hamagrael 's Earth Week Theme: Reduce, Reuse, and Recycle! (3R's)

One of the best ways to protect the natural resources of the Earth, which we share with other animals and plants, is to reduce the amount of things that we buy and throw away, to reuse what we already have, and to recycle what we no longer need. Reducing our consumption and waste not only conserves energy and other natural resources, but also reduces pollution to our air, water and land.

Hamagrael will celebrate Earth Week (April 16-23) with the following programs and activities:

- *Week-long emphasis on importance of 3R's through daily announcements of interesting environmental facts and figures and jokes (see below and M. Warford's abbreviated powerpoint presentation) and review of Hamagrael recycling practices and identifying recyclable materials and recycling receptacles (pictures of recyclable and non-recyclable materials to be posted in classrooms)

- *Classes encouraged to participate in One-Bag Challenge (challenge is to reduce amount of waste to one garbage bag per day per class and one large garbage bag per family per week at home)

- *Display of Earth Day posters

- *Lobby display case/3-D bulletin board with "green-theme" items displayed, posted or stapled (i.e., prominent recycling logo, common recyclable items (bottles and cans, plastic produce/yogurt containers, cereal boxes and paper tubes, egg cartons, plastic shopping bags), a photograph of kitchen waste for compost, recycling brochures, [50 Simple Things Kids Can do to Save the Earth](#) and other environment-related books available in Hamagrael library, green t-shirt, reusable grocery bag, 100% recycled paper towels)

- *Use NYSDEC "New York Recycles!" packet (remember to delete reference to November 15 date on top!) for daily activity sheets, suggested reading, and Gee Whiz Facts

- *Recycled art/craft projects

Daily Themes:

Monday -- Poster Day

Encourage students to make posters with 3R's theme or illustrating what Earth Day means to them); announce start of Earth Week and events planned, especially Waste Free Lunch Day on Wednesday (did you know that lunchtime trash is the second largest source of trash in U.S. schools?); send home double-sided USEPA Waste Free Lunch flyer with information and tips

Tuesday – The 3R's Pledge

Encourage students and their families to make a pledge to Reduce, Reuse and Recycle not just on Earth Day, but every day. Send home 3R's pledge forms; forms signed by both student and parent are returned and entered in Friday drawing for green-themed prizes; remind students to bring in Waste Free Lunch for Wednesday

Wednesday – Waste-Free Lunch Day

Encourage students to pack/select only what they know they will eat and to avoid commercially prepackaged foods with disposable wrappers; encourage use of reusable containers and serving ware and avoid disposable items such as baggies, plastic forks and spoons ; encourage students to wear green t-shirts for Earth Day spirit on Thursday

Thursday – Earth Day Assembly

Presentation and slide show on Antarctica environment and wildlife by John Davis, environmental scientist for NYS Office of Attorney General Environmental Protection Bureau; 9:30-10:15 for Grades K-2 and 10:30-11:15 for Grades 3-5. All Hamagrael students and staff encouraged to wear green T-shirts in observance of Earth Day

Friday -- 3R's Pledge Drawing

Drawing of 10 pledge slips for prizes, including: \$5 gift certificates to local "green" vendors such as gardening centers and used book store; seed packets; reusable shopping bags from local businesses

The 3R's Pledge: Reduce, Reuse, and Recycle

As a Hamagrael family, we care deeply about our environment. Reducing the amount of "stuff" we buy and throw away, reusing what we already have, and recycling what we no longer need are great ways to protect the Earth's environment. Today, we make this pledge to do our very best to Reduce, Reuse and Recycle (the 3R's) not just on Earth Day, but every day!

We will reduce the amount of waste we make by:

- Avoiding "disposable" or "throw away" items such as baggies, plastic forks and spoons
- Avoiding pre-packaged foods and instead, buying in bulk and using reusable food storage containers
- Avoiding junk mail (go to www.donotmail.org to sign up for Do Not Mail registries)
- Bringing and using reusable shopping bags when we go to the store or market
- Drinking tap water instead of buying bottled water or soda
- Composting our kitchen waste
- Buying less and enjoying what we have, more

We will reuse what we have by:

- Finding new uses for "old" things: scrap paper for notes and crafts, deli containers for snack boxes
- Fixing or repairing things instead of throwing them away
- Donating things that we no longer need or want, so others can enjoy them

We will recycle what we no longer need by:

- Recycling bottles, cans, plastics and paper at school and home (try the One Bag Challenge!)

Other ways in which we help protect our the environment:

- We will learn more about simple things kids can do to save the Earth by visiting www.50simplekids.com and encourage others to do the 3R's, too!

Cut off and return the completed form below to enter the 3R's Pledge drawing for great "green" prizes!

The 3R's Pledge: Reduce, Reuse, and Recycle!

Student's name: _____ Teacher: _____

Parent's signature: _____ Date: _____

Interesting Environmental Facts and Figures

1. The U.S. produces about half the world's garbage but has only 6% of the population.
2. Approximately 27% of household waste is non-durable or single use goods.
3. Americans consume approx 50 million tons of paper which is approx 850 million trees.
4. Average school child throws away 67 pounds of lunch waste annually.
5. Americans throw out 11 billion pounds (that's nine zeros!) of fruits and vegetables every year – that's enough to feed 25 % of the world's starving children.
6. Americans throw away 88 pounds of plastic annually.
7. Americans recycle about 1/3 of their waste. Recycling results in cleaner air, land, water and a more sustainable economy.
8. It takes about 500 years for plastic to break down in the landfill; it only takes 6 months to a year for paper and cotton rags.
9. The average American discards about 2.5 pounds of waste daily.
10. The energy we save when we recycle one glass bottle is enough to light an incandescent bulb for 4 hours; one aluminum can – 3 hours of TV.
11. The three main fuels we use today (oil, coal and natural gas) were formed many hundreds of millions of years ago, long before the time of dinosaurs. That's why they're called fossil fuels. They are non-renewable, meaning once we run out, there will be no more. That is why we need to have more renewable forms of energy such as solar and wind energy.
12. A soda can you throw away today will still be here 500 years from now.
13. Plastic soda bottles can be recycled into filling for pillows and ski jackets, and even carpet.
14. Plastic bags and other plastic garbage blown or thrown into the ocean kill about 1 million sea creatures every year.
15. About 1/3 of an average U.S. landfill is made up of packaging materials; ¼ of dump is comprised of non-durable (single-use/disposable goods).
16. Every day 50-100 species of plants and animals become extinct as their habitat is lost because of humans.
17. Earth is made up of 2/3 water but less than 1% of that water is fresh water usable to humans. Water is precious and we must protect it.
18. We have lost ½ of the earth's tropical forests.
19. Don't release helium balloons – they can cause death in whales and sea turtles.

Green Jokes

- Why can't you play cards in the jungle? Because there are too many cheetahs.
- If a seagull flies over the sea, what flies over the bay? A bagel.
- Why did the chimp sell his banana business? He was tired of all the monkey business.
- What do you get when you cross a centipede with a parrot? You get a walkie-talkie.
- What do you get when you cross a fish with an elephant? You get swimming trunks.
- What did the sun say when he was introduced to the earth? "Pleased to heat you!"

Recycled Art/Craft Activities

Encourage students to bring in used or unwanted materials for use in recycled art/craft projects. Here are some suggestions:

"Wildlife" binoculars: Use toilet paper and paper towel tubes to make binoculars to view wildlife. Cut tubes into two equal lengths, staple together at both ends, staple 2 ft. long string or ribbon for neck strap. Decorate. (Supplies needed: paper tubes, staples, thick string or ribbon)

Biodegradable seed starters: Use paper egg cartons to make easy, earth-friendly seed starters. Remove lid and line with plastic wrap or plastic cut from plastic shopping bag (make sure plastic overhangs the lid). Fill egg cups 1/3 with loose soil; add seed; cover lightly with additional soil. Place egg cup tray directly on top of lid. Lightly moisten soil (the lid supports the egg cups, which get soggy from the water) and leave by windowsill. Keep moist. Seedlings can be transplanted – egg cup and all – directly into school garden (if herbs, then into Hamagrael's new Organic Kitchen Garden, or if flowers, into flower beds). (Supplies needed: paper egg cartons, seeds, potting soil, plastic wrap or bag)

Personalized hands-free berry -picking basket: Use plastic clam-shell berry cartons to make “hands-free” holder for use when berry-picking. Cut out colored construction paper to cover carton label, decorate, and glue over label on top of carton. Thread 3-4 ft. string or ribbon through slats or holes near hinge. Tie ribbon or string around waist then berry picking; close lid when done! (Supplies needed: large plastic clam-shell berry holder, thick string or ribbon, construction paper and glue).

Additional craft ideas:

Egg Cup Flowers

For the flowers

- egg cartons (styrofoam or cardboard)
- small colorful candy liners/cups (mini muffin liners/cups - made of paper)
- beads
- thick pipe cleaners (chenille stems)
- scissors
- glitter and glue (optional)
- paint and brushes (optional)
- sharp pencil

For the vase

- paper towel or toilet paper roll
- a yogurt or margarine lid
- magic markers or paint
- glue and glitter

For the flowers:

1. Cut the egg carton apart so you have individual "cups".

2. Take one egg carton cup and poke a hole in the center of it.
3. Poke a hole in the center of a candy/muffin liner.
4. Place the candy liner inside the egg carton cup and feed a pipe cleaner through the holes.
5. Place a bead or two on the end of the pipe cleaner (inside the candy liner) and twist the ends to hold the beads on.
6. Repeat until you have a bouquet of flowers.

For the vase:

1. To create the vase, simply decorate a paper towel or toilet paper roll using paint or markers.
2. Next, take a yogurt lid, cover it with glue and sprinkle glitter on the glue (this is optional).
3. Then, glue the toilet paper tube to the yogurt lid and let dry.

Tips:

- You might choose to paint the egg carton cups. However, leaving them plain is fine, especially if your candy liners are nice and colorful.
- If you can't find colorful candy liners, use magic markers to jazz up plain ones.
- Use muffin liners if you can't find candy liners.

Magazine Mosaics

- Magazines or photos
 - Scissors
 - Paper (bristol board works best)
 - Paint (optional)
 - White glue
1. Cut out small pieces of magazines or photos. Select related colours and start piles of reds, greens, blues etc.
 2. Draw a picture or design onto the paper. Its a good idea to refer to pictures of mosaics.
 3. Begin adding the pieces of magazines and photos to create a mosaic.
 4. Remember to take time to plan out your ideas and don't be afraid to experiment.

Media Collage

- A piece of masonite (about 12" x 12") or heavy cardboard
 - Old magazines of all sorts (family, home, food, fashion, etc.)
 - Labels from boxes, bottles and cans (canned vegetable labels, chip bags, etc.)
 - Glue
 - Scissors
 - Other found objects - advertising buttons, stickers, promo items etc. (optional)
 - Gesso or latex house paint and a paintbrush.
 - Sealer
1. Encourage each student to choose their favorite ads and place them on a pile on their table or desk.
 2. The same should be done with product packaging.
 3. Once each student has a pile of paper in front of them, they can then begin to cut out the parts that appeal to them the most.

4. They can arrange these parts by color, shape, subject matter etc.
5. To prepare your masonite or cardboard, cover with one layer of white latex house paint or gesso ... this will help to prime the work space.
6. Next, each student can arrange his/her images which they have collected and glue them onto the board to create a collage.
7. When the collages are complete, they can be sealed with a thin coat of water based varathane.
8. Set up the completed works and discuss what each child did. Why they chose the images they did. Why did they arrange the images the way they did? What does their collage represent etc.
9. **Younger students** should be encouraged to discuss the colors, shapes and pictures they have found.
10. Older students could write a brief essay describing what they learned about advertising and product packaging.

Puzzle Piece Frame

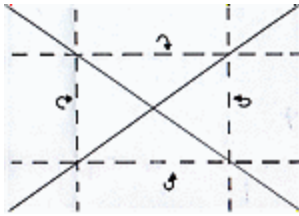
- picture of child (or pet, or a drawing, etc.)
 - poster paper
 - puzzle pieces
 - glue
 - magnetic strips
1. Gather pictures of each student (school pictures are a perfect size), or pictures of pets or drawings, etc.
 2. Cut pieces of poster paper about an inch bigger (on all four sides) than the picture.
 3. Have students glue their picture in the center of the poster paper.
 4. Give each student a handful of puzzle pieces (One 500 -1000 piece puzzle is plenty).
 5. Have them glue their puzzle pieces around their pictures, overlapping as they go until the poster paper is covered.
 6. Optional: glue a magnetic strip on back; include a gift tag that says: "I love you to pieces"

Greeting Card Box

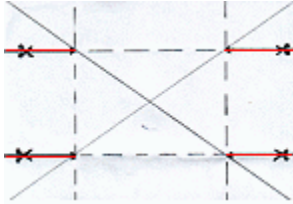
- An old greeting card -- or two or three.
 - A ruler or straight edge.
 - A pencil.
 - A pair of scissors.
 - Crayons or markers for decorating.
1. First, get an old greeting card.
 2. Next, rip it in half at the fold.
 3. Using your ruler, make an "X" on the card by drawing two lines that cross at the center of the card. (see diagram).



4. Fold the edges of all four sides of the paper over to the middle of the cross. (see diagram)



- Cut the red lines as shown in the diagram.



- Fold the tabs in to create a box and tape the box together.
- To create a lid for the box, do the same as above, only instead of folding the edges to the point of the cross, fold them slightly outward so the lid will be larger than the bottom.
- Done

Fabric Scrap Flower Garden

- Fabric scraps in bright colors
- Scissors
- 7 craft sticks
- White craft glue
- 2 green skinny chenille stems
- White craft paint
- 1 sheet pink felt

Cut some simple shapes from the fabric for your flowers. They should be about 1 – 1.5 inches diameter. Cut small circles and square and glue those to the center of some of your flower shapes.

Line up 5 craft sticks side by side. There should be enough space between each that one craft stick will stretch across all 5 horizontally. Glue one stick at the top and one at the bottom, about an inch from the top and bottom. Let the glue dry then paint fence white.

Cut chenille into 6 different lengths. Glue the chenille stems to the fence.

Glue the flowers to the tops of each chenille stem. Glue the fence to a piece of pink felt. Trim around the edge to create an even border.

Tips:

This looks great hanging on your child's door or wall! Simply take a long fabric scrap and create a simple hanger by gluing it to the back.

1. Save fabric scraps in a zipper gallon storage bag or plastic container with a lid for future projects such as this.
2. To create a sturdy frame, glue the pink felt backing to a piece of poster board or card stock.

String-Covered Vase

- Glass or plastic bottle

- Rainbow colored string
 - White craft glue
 - Strip of green felt, measured to go around top of bottle
 - Toothpick
 - Scissors
1. Be sure glass bottle is clean and dry. Apply white craft glue all around the bottom part of the bottle, one inch high.
 2. Start wrapping string around the bottom of the bottle. Continue wrapping, keeping the string close together, gently pushing down with a toothpick if needed. Add more glue and continue wrapping string until you reach the top of the bottle.
 3. Cut a piece of felt wide enough to cover the lip of the bottle and long enough to wrap around it once. Glue in place. Allow everything to dry completely.

Tips:

1. This project can be done all in one sitting or in several steps. If your child needs a break, simply place the bottle somewhere and pick it up again later.
2. Look for rainbow colored string at your local craft store. String is sold in large spools.
3. Save glass bottle from condiments, sauces, or juice to use for projects such as this.

CD Photo Ornament Craft

- Old CD
- Felt
- Photo
- Craft glue
- Ribbon
- Scissors

Trace around the CD onto a piece of felt. Cut out the felt circle.

Cut a 10-inch piece of ribbon. Tie the ribbon into a loop. Put a dab of glue onto the back of the CD towards the outside edge. Press the ribbon loop into the glue to make the hanger.

Spread glue over the entire back of the CD. Center the felt circle on glue and gently press. This will cover any writing and the ribbon ends, and it will be the back of your ornament.

Cut around the figure in the picture you are using. You can cut it into a rectangle shape, circle, or whatever you want. For a fancy edge, use pinking sheers!

Trace the picture onto a piece of felt. Cut out the shape, making it about 1/2-inch wider than the picture. Glue the photo onto the piece of felt so you can see the felt on all sides. Glue this onto the center of the CD, making sure you cover the hole completely.

Egg Carton Caterpillar

- 1 row of an egg carton
- Pipe cleaner, google eyes, and other embellishments.
- 1 sheet construction paper

Green poster paint and brush

White glue

Scissors

Paint egg carton row with green paint. Allow to dry.

Cut 12 identical feet from construction paper.

Glue feet and other embellishments onto painted carton, using materials such as felt, pipe cleaners, pom-pom balls, or google eyes.

Cut-Up Photo Collages

- Photo (portraits work best)
 - Colored paper
 - Glue
1. Print out a large color photo -- portraits have the most dramatic effects! Cut it into long strips, vertical and horizontal pieces, or various geometric shapes (as shown).
 2. Reassemble the photo on a piece of colored paper, spreading out the pieces to let some color come through.
 3. Once you're set on a design, glue the pieces in place.

CD Scratch Board

Old CD, acrylic paint, scratcher

Paint the clear, shiny side of CD, let dry. Lightly draw/trace a design onto the dried surface and proceed to scratch onto the design using a thick sewing needle, pencil or end of paint brush. This removes the paint and leaves the shiny rainbow part exposed for cool design effects.

Paper Beads

- Scraps of colorful paper (gift wrap, magazine photos, or newspaper comics are ideal)
 - Scissors
 - Glue stick
 - Drinking straws
 - Yarn, ribbon, or string
1. For each bead, cut out a triangular strip of paper that measures about 1 1/4 inches across the base and 10 1/2 inches from the base to the tip. Lay the strip facedown on a piece of waxed paper or cardboard. Coat the surface of the paper with glue.
 2. Stick the base of the strip to the side of a drinking straw. Wrap the paper repeatedly around the straw, applying more glue, if necessary, to stick down the tip of the triangle. Once the glue dries, use scissors to cut away the straw on both sides of each bead.
 3. String the finished beads on leather, yarn, nylon cording, or string. For a stylish touch, use a piece of ribbon and tie an overhand knot between beads to space them apart. Or use craft wire (available at craft and bead stores) to attach single beads to earring hangers.