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## 2009 Earth Day Summit at Gananoque Arena

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“Get it while it’s cold.” That was the motto of the Earth Day event at the Gananoque Arena April 21<sup>st</sup>. Grade 5 students came from all over the Frontenac Arch Biosphere. They all gathered in the Lou Jeffries Centre.

There were eight stations set up. There was ‘All About Turtles’ by Kim Robinson of SLINP, ‘Biosphere Hike’ by Ron Gardiner of CRCA, ‘Eco-Clue’ by Angela McAneney and Carolyn Lauzon of Little Cataraqui (CRCA), ‘All-Natural Department Store Hike’ by Amy Whitehorne of Brockville Museum, ‘Lean On Me’ by Scott Ewart of 1000 Islands Kayaking, ‘Art’ by Marnie Ross of Lakes and Islands Life Long Learning, ‘Worm Factory’ by Ray and Gerrie Baker of Worm Factory, and ‘Scavenger Hunt’ by Alison Farmer. Also Jack Henry, of the Grenville Stewardship Council, helped organize and keep everyone on time for the day. The kids were split into different groups and had four sessions to discover new things that they might not have known about the environment. I personally got to talk to the kids and the leaders and learned some new things about the environment.



This was a fun and exciting day. Even though it rained and we had to stay inside everyone still had lots of fun. At Art I asked some students what they do to help the environment. They told me they recycle and plant trees. I thought that was pretty great that they are trying their best to help the environment.

Also, Rick Mattice and Jack Hamilton played the All About Turtles game and played a game where a third of the kids were turtles and a third were snakes and the other third were cars. Their object was for the snakes and turtles to make it across the road with out being hit by a car. They



enjoyed this game because they got to run around and play fun games that teach them about the environment. They also each read a poem that they wrote. Both of which were awesome. I learned when I walked by the 'All-Natural Department Store Hike' that the pioneers used leaves instead of toilet paper. "EEEEWWW!!!! That's gross, yuch!!!!" At the 'Eco-Clue' kids were asked questions about the environment. For the 'Biosphere Hike' kids even though the weather was not great, got a chance to go on a hike. The 'Lean On Me' group got a chance to run around and learn all at the same time, if you can believe it.

At Art they coloured pictures about the environment to put on the front of their bags. 'The Worm Factory' showed kids how such a small and slimy squirmy little worm plays a big part for us. The 'Scavenger Hunt' got kids to know what stuff you can recycle and what stuff you cannot.



The whole today has just been fun and a great learning experience for everyone. Next year we hope for sun. This has been a great day and we hope next year we will be outside and have even more fun.



