

Mary Immaculate School students reduce, reuse and recycle as part of Earth Week activities.



SUBMITTED PHOTO BY ROSEMARY MARTINEZ

# Students go green for Earth Week

BY ROSEMARY MARTINEZ

“Reduce, Reuse, Recycle, Repeat and Rejoice” is the mantra for Earth Week 2010 at Mary Immaculate School, a Catholic school in Farmers Branch that draws students in from Carrollton, Coppell, Irving and northward.

Earth Week, which runs April 17-25, is a nationwide show of appreciation for the Earth’s environment, and is intended to inspire awareness for environmentally conscious behaviors.

For each school day during Earth Week, the morning prayer and announcements at Mary Immaculate School incorporated various environmental topics. The students discussed stewardship of the earth in their classes, with presentations and activities in reference to the five key words from the Earth Week mantra. Their reflections also included the Blessed Kateri Tekakwitha, who is the Patron Saint of Ecology (and, by extension, the Patron Saint of Earth Week).

“The word ‘Rejoice’ in our Earth Week mantra reminds us that there is plenty to celebrate when it comes to taking care of the earth,” said principal Nancy Russell, “and that it is part of our Christian obligation to be good stewards of the earth.”

The lunch room is a key recycle

## MORE INFO

For more information, visit [mischool.org](http://mischool.org).

point for the students. In addition to their current drink container recycling efforts, the students were encouraged to pack a trash-free lunch during Earth Week and recycle cafeteria Styrofoam food trays.

The final school day will include a student Mass with songs that celebrate the environment. Students will be presenting gifts of flowers and plants to be planted in the school garden.

The school’s Parent Teacher Club is spearheading the Earth Week efforts for the school. They are making eco-friendly, reusable shopping bags from used t-shirts to distribute to each school family and will be presenting new books on environment to the school library.

“An important point in what the students learn this week is that there is an order to the words ‘reduce, re-use, recycle,’” said Rita Ford, president-elect of the Parent Teacher Club. “If you reduce consumption of materials, and re-use what you do have, then there is less to recycle.”

*Rosemary Martinez contributes to [neighborsgo.com](http://neighborsgo.com) on behalf of Mary Immaculate School.*