



STUDENT VOICES

A NEWSPAPERS IN EDUCATION PAGE

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THIS WEEK'S FEATURED CLASS: FIFTH GRADE AT GERMAN VALLEY GRADE SCHOOL

Saving energy helps everyone

Did you know a two-degree adjustment to your thermostat setting can lower your utility bills by 4 percent and prevent 500 pounds of carbon dioxide from entering the atmosphere each year?

Fifth grade students in Bob Nelson's class at German Valley Grade School are learning about preserving energy. Under a new program, PEAK, students will participate in an innovative curriculum that teaches them to conserve energy, save money on utility bills and preserve the environment.

The program is a three-year pilot program and is funded by Northern Illinois Energy Project and The Energy Coalition. German Valley is the only school in Stephenson County selected for the program.

The program provides teacher training and classroom materials to educate students about energy issues and build a resource efficiency ethic in our youth. At the Dec. 9 kick-off event, students danced to the electric slide and learned how light bulbs create light through electricity.

"Starting this month, students will be able to participate in fun and educational projects while learning how a few changes in their daily life can make a huge difference in their parents' monthly



In Bob Nelson's fifth grade class at German Valley Grade School are, front row from left: Seth Mackey, Jacob Mateika, Aaron Vincer, Cody Wichman, Rachel Nelson, Bryan Kraft, Jessica Betz, Bobbi Jo Heinze, Sydney Groen, Jessi Brooks, Amy Higgins; back row: student teacher Sarah Krogman, Luis Garcia, Courtney Thilmany, Eli Doak, Nate Hillers, Grant Ebbesmeyer, Victoria Gillispie, Sam Vincer, Nick Perez, Dillon Miller, Mykil Baker, Michelle Spittler and

JOE TAMBORELLO / THE JOURNAL-STANDARD

Saving energy is important because there might not be enough to go around someday. We need to use it wisely. The PEAK program helps us learn what to do to use our electricity in a better way. You should always turn off appliances and lights. It is also a good thing to buy things with the Energy Star label on them. This means they will use energy more efficiently. We don't want to spend all our

I think saving energy is very important. You save money, you don't use as much electricity, and you can help the environment. We don't want to pay as much money as we do for electricity.

— Mykil Baker

Why should we save energy? We should conserve energy because it might not always be around for us to use as we please.

The PEAK program has taught us that we should preserve as much energy as possible. PEAK stands for Preserving Energy for All Kids. It also reminds us to switch our use of electricity from the busy part of the day to off-peak hours. Saving energy could be easier if people would turn off lights, turn off the water, or turn down their heat when they can. People should think of doing things that don't use as

Electricity is important. It is not always going to be here. You have to conserve it. That is just one thing that we have learned in the PEAK program. There are many others, too! This program is about teaching kids to use energy wisely. If you conserve it, things will last longer. It won't be here forever, you know!

— Jessi Brooks

We need to conserve energy because it won't always be there for us to use. Energy is neither created nor destroyed, it only changes form. We need to use the energy that we have in a positive way.

— Bryan Kraft

There are several things you can do to save energy. Conserving energy is very important to our lives. If you use CFLs, don't leave lights on in a room when you leave, and try to cut down on your use of electricity, we will all be better off.

— Amy Higgins

Saving energy is important for many reasons. No one is really sure how much we will need in the future. Here are several reasons why we need to keep energy conversation in mind.

First, it costs money to make and use energy. You should buy electrical products that have the Energy Star label. This means it will use energy efficiently and it will help save you money on your energy bill. Next, you will not always have all the energy that you want to be able to use. With so many people in America using energy every day, who knows what will happen. The PEAK program teaches us to do