

Coventry Board of Education

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After learning about ecology, or more specifically, rainforest destruction and endangered species, Laura Myslinski's sixth grade students from the Capt. Nathan Hale Middle School in Coventry, were eager to team up with the Conservation International and the Earth Foundation to help change the world.

Each year, the Earth Foundation chooses a location in desperate need of conservation. Since 1992, the organization has donated over \$10 million by holding fundraisers to acquire land for conservation. This year's location was Madagascar, which only has 10% of its rainforest remaining.

The students at the Capt. Nathan Hale Middle School learned that, because Madagascar's animals and plants are endemic to the island, the cause is especially urgent. Along with 10,000 other schools in the United States, Ms. Myslinski's class sold t-shirts in order to buy rainforest. For every ten shirts sold, one acre of land is purchased. This year, the students were able to sell over 500 t-shirts, thus saving 51.6 acres of land in Madagascar.

This is the third year the sixth graders have participated in this program. Last year, CNHMS was the top selling school in Connecticut and saved 57.8 acres of land in Costa Rica. While the year before that the students saved almost 40 acres in the Rift Valley of Africa. The students feel good about being part of such an important project, and they realize that one person can make a difference in the world.



For further information, or if you have any questions, please call Laura Myslinski at the Capt. Nathan Hale Middle School 742-7334, Ext. 388.