



**Pleasant Dale
Park District**

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**** Immediate Release ****

Kids Who are Not Afraid of the Dark

Burr Ridge, Ill. – March 11, 2009 - Last year, spring break campers at Pleasant Dale Park District participated a day early in Earth Hour (EH) themed events. On Friday, March 27th, 2008 campers ages 6 – 13 years-old learned how to reduce their carbon footprint, reduce energy use at home and other ways to help improve the environment.

“We tried to fill the entire day with activities based on learning how to protect the environment. The kids participated in many educational elements but of course, we had a lot of fun too. We played games like flash-light tag in the dark, making a craft of glow in the dark t-shirts, and we watched the movie, *Happy Feet*,” said Kristin Letrich, camp coordinator for Pleasant Dale.

This year, Pleasant Dale Park District continued the day before celebration of EH. Campers had the day packed of EH games that included, sharks and minnows, flashlight tag, shadow tag, and played charades with EH facts. They also watched the movie, *Wall E* while eating globe-like ice cream scoops representing showing the effects of global warming.

Kids had the opportunity to visit three learning centers during the day. One center operated an “Earth” bingo game, where when a player thought they had “bingo” they had to yell Earth! And in order to win, campers had to give one example of how they can conserve energy. Kids also wrote to their local state representative, Judy Biggert expressing what they know about the environment and ways to conserve it. Lastly, campers made posters on black construction paper with glow in the dark paint and stickers to promote EH.

Campers went home with a packet to give to their parents containing information about how to spread the word about EH and what they can do in their own homes.

“Going green is a new endeavor that we are actively pursuing. We’ve recently adopted an environmental policy for Pleasant Dale Park District and I am thrilled to have a few special projects in the works for the 2009-2010 year that focus on improving our environment for the community we serve through parks and recreation.” Said Rosalyn Wendt-Epting, director of Pleasant Dale Park District.

Kids Who are Not Afraid of the Dark

Pleasant Dale Park District was proud to support the action of turning off our lights on Saturday, March 28th in conjunction with millions of people around the world to make a dramatic symbolic statement for its second international effort.

“We participated last year in EH and we feel it is something that is a wonderful opportunity for kids and adults to raise awareness about environmental issues. This event demonstrates how individuals in communities around the world can come together for a good cause.” Said Wendt-Epting.

About World Wildlife Fund (WWF)

For more than 45 years, WWF has been protecting the future of nature. The largest multinational conservation organization in the world, WWF works in 100 countries and is supported by 1.2 million members in the United States and close to 5 million globally. WWF's unique way of working combines global reach with a foundation in science, involves action at every level, from local to global, and ensures the delivery of innovative solutions that meet the needs of both people and nature. Go to www.worldwildlife.org to learn more.

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