

Jarrell

A Care Taker of Our Earth



By Jennifer DeStefano

Jarrell is 9 years old. He is in 3rd Grade at the Cambridgeport School in Cambridge Massachusetts.



Jarrell is an important **caretaker** of our planet earth.



Jarrell thinks it is important to take care of the earth because he likes to spend so much time outside. He loves playing sports,

riding his bike, going to the beach and playing in the
snow.



Jarrell does not like seeing **litter** on the ground. To fix this problem he helps by **recycling**. He believes the earth is a much better place to live without trash on it.





At home Jarrell helps feeds and care for his pet rabbits.

He **fertilizes** the garden with the rabbits' **manure** to make sure the plants have healthy **soil**. Jarrell understands that we need plants to live. Plants give us food and **oxygen**.



Jarrell wants you to take care of the environment too.



Here are some tips from Jarrell for you to be a good
caretaker of the earth!

Do not throw things on the ground. If you throw something on the ground, pick it up and throw it in the trash. If the trash is too far away from you, or put it in your pocket.



Recycle: Don't throw things that can be recycled in the trash.



Grow a garden and water it. When it's raining, you don't have to water it, but other days you should.



Going to the **farmers market** helps the earth, local community and farmers.



If you are done using a toy, give it to someone else to use instead of throwing it out.



Glossary

Caretaker – a person who takes care of another

Farmers' Market - a food market at which local farmers sell fruit and vegetables and often meat, cheese, and bakery products directly to consumers

Fertilize - make soil or land more productive by adding suitable substance

Litter – trash, such as paper, plastic wrappers, cans and bottles, this is left lying in an open or public place

Manure – animal poop used to fertilize land

Oxygen – the part of air that we breathe that humans need to survive

Recycle – to change or transform waste into reusable material

Soil – the upper layer of earth in which plants grow

About the Author

My name is Jennifer DeStefano. I am a student at Lesley University. I live in Boston, MA and work at an afterschool program in Newton, MA. I am a teacher of kindergarten, first and second grade students. I spend a lot of time outdoors at work and at home. My students and I like to go on nature walks and play tag games.

During the spring and fall I play softball, and in the summer I go to the beach and swim in the ocean.

Taking care of the earth is very important to me. I help take care of the earth by recycling everyday and walking instead of driving as much as I can. I encourage my students to keep their school clean by recycling and never littering. We also like to make fun art projects out of recycled material!



Marie Fukuda, Caretaker of Our Earth

By: Aneri Kothari

Marie Fukuda grew up in Tokyo, Japan with her three sisters and two brothers. She went to an international school with children from all around the world. Marie moved to Boston when she was 19 years old.



Marie is a caretaker of our Earth. She works very hard to keep our community clean. She works with the city to plant and take care of park trees. She also shares the importance of trees with the community.



Marie's grandfather had a garden with more than 2,000 roses, vegetables, and fruits. She loved helping him in the garden. This is one of the main reasons why she adores what she does. She loves spending time in the garden, and in parks where she helps out. Marie loves gardening and even weeding.



Now, Marie's job is to be a volunteer. This means that she donates her time to working in the city parks and gardens. She is a board member at the Fenway Civic Association which is a company that makes decisions about building more parks and working on open space projects. When she is not working, Marie likes to help her neighbors in their gardens.

Here's one challenge I have for you today:

Go to a park, your school playground, or an open space and pick up a piece of trash. This is a great way to keep the Earth a clean place. 😊



Marie's advice to Kindergarteners is to keep exploring nature in any way you can and ask your parents, teachers, and adults any questions you have about the planet.



Glossary



Volunteer : A person who willingly helps.

Community : A group of people who come together.

Fenway Civic Association : All-Volunteer organization who wants to make Earth a more safe, and clean place.

About the author:

Aneri Kothari is a senior at Lesley University. She is studying Elementary Education and Mathematics and Psychology. Aneri lives with her parents and sister in New Jersey. They are originally from Mumbai, India. She would love to learn how to garden. Aneri wants to teach her students how to keep Earth a clean place.



Citations

Operation world: the definitive guide to every nation. (n.d.). Retrieved from <http://www.operationworld.org/japa>

Arani. (n.d.). *Keep earth clean*. Retrieved from <http://arani.deviantart.com/art/Keep-Earth-Clean-112720256>



BEAUTIFUL STUFF

By: Laura Crowther



Meet Marina Seevak! She lives in Cambridge Massachusetts with her two sons, Gabe and Jay, and her puppy Luna. She grew up in New Jersey and has been a teacher her entire life. She spent most of her time as a kindergarten teacher at the Baldwin School in Cambridge.



She takes care of our earth by collecting recycled items that people may throw away. She lets teachers take the items into their classrooms for students to use and make new creations.



Marina's first job was at the Boston Children's Museum. She worked in the Creative Reuse Center where there were many recycled materials that could be turned into new creations.



When she became a teacher, Marina created a Junk Center in her classroom that was available to students every day. She put different recycled materials in the center and watched the fun things that her students would make!



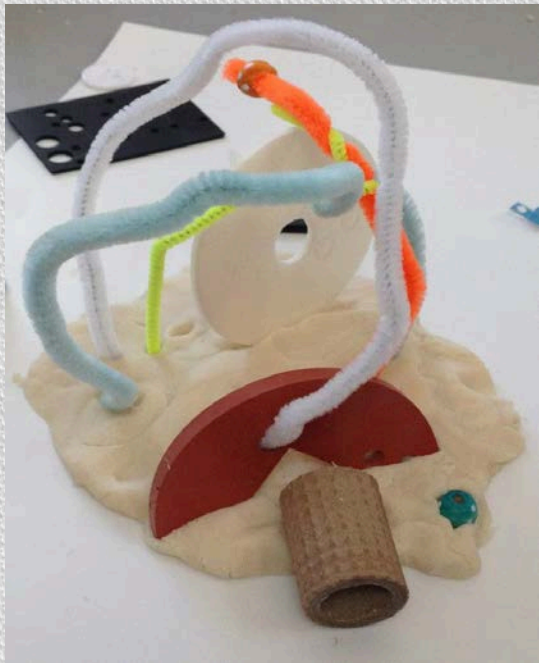
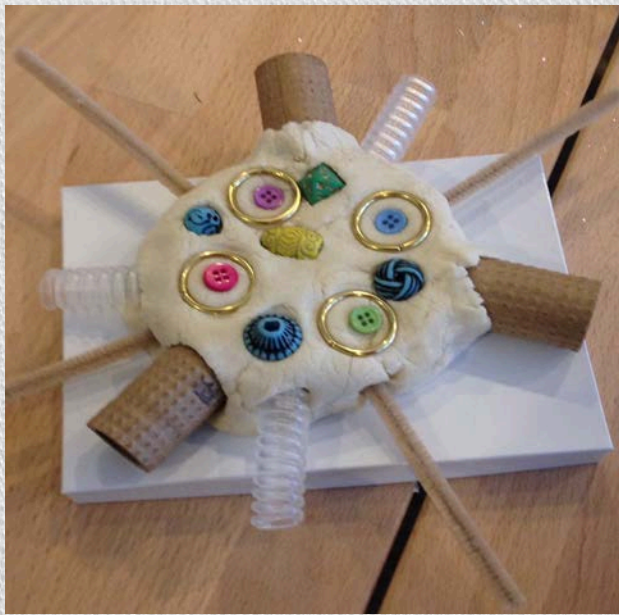
Marina is now the owner of Beautiful Stuff in Somerville Massachusetts where she has an entire room of recycled materials that she shares with teachers and students. Stores, manufacturers, and artists donate scraps to her that they do not use.



Instead of trash going into landfills, Marina believes that children and teachers can put these materials to good use. She loves that children can create treasures from trash.



Now, Marina enjoys traveling to surrounding schools with her treasure chest. She is never surprised that the children are always able to make something beautiful!



Marina encourages children that they can make something out of anything. Be creative and use your imagination to use materials that would normally be thrown away in your own homes!

Meet the Author: Laura Crowther

Laura is graduate student at Lesley University and a preschool teacher in Arlington Massachusetts. She hopes to become a kindergarten teacher in the near future and encourage her students to make beautiful stuff!

Glossary

Recycle: Use old materials to make something new

Manufacturer: A person that makes items to sell

Donate: To give away for free

Landfill: A place to put unwanted garbage

Encourage: Hope or wish for students to make beautiful stuff



Mike Graney: Caretaker of the Earth

By: Kelsey McCullough



Mike Graney is a beekeeper in the Boston area. This makes him a caretaker of the earth! He started taking care of bees in Jamaica Plain in 1997. Today he has bees all over Boston!



Mike was born right outside Boston and grew up with two brothers and four sisters. When he was 7, he and his family moved to **Ireland!** Over there, he learned about living on a farm. It was a lot of work taking care of the animals! He moved back to Boston when he was 12. After high school, he went to cooking school to become a chef. He has always liked homegrown and home cooked food.



Growing up, Mike's dad had beehives. The whole family would help **extract** honey. Even though he sometimes got stung by a bee, the taste of fresh honey was worth it. Mike learned all about how bees behave from books his dad had.



When Mike grew up, he bought honey from the grocery store. It did not taste the same as the fresh honey he was used to growing up. He started his own beehive to make homemade honey. People in his **neighborhood** were interested in his honey so he bought more bees to make honey for the community!

Mike builds, paints, and maintains the hives his bees live in. Once the bees get started they find their own food and do not need a lot of help from Mike. He just keeps them in a safe place and hopes they like it!





Bees help our earth because they **pollinate** crops. That means that they make flowers **produce** fruits and vegetables. Being a beekeeper means being good to animals which is what the world needs.



Mike's Advice to Kindergarteners

So many things are brought to us with a lot of hard work from many people. The clean water we drink comes from a clean lake through pipes that take work to build and maintain. The food we eat is grown by hard working farmers. Even the clothes we wear is made by cotton grown by a farmer. Everything is connected so we need a healthy earth to live healthy lives!



Glossary

- **Ireland** – an island country in Europe
- **Extract** – to remove
- **Neighborhood** – people living near each other
- **Maintain** – to keep in good shape
- **Pollinate** – to transfer to different parts of a plant
- **Produce** – to make



About the Author

Kelsey McCullough is a student at Lesley University. When she graduates, she wants to be a preschool teacher. She hopes to one day have her own classroom of children. She wants to teach them about taking care of the earth.



SHANI FLETCHER
A Caretaker of our Earth



This is Shani Fletcher. Shani is a caretaker of our earth. She is a farm manager at the ReVision Urban Farm in Dorchester. She works very hard to help grow vegetables for people in her community.



Shani grew up in Los Angeles, California.
Then she moved to Worcester, MA. She
moved again and went to high school in
Michigan where she lived on a former farm.
She grew up with gardeners and fell in love
with plants.



Shani cares about things being fair and believes that everyone should be able to have healthy food to eat.



Shani started working at the farm because it combined her love for plants and social justice. To be a farm manager, you need to know a lot about how plants grow, and you need to be a good people person.



The farm brings their vegetables to local farmers markets. Shani also has help. She has two growers. Shani helps them learn about plants and growing vegetables.



Shani's tip to kindergarteners who would like to protect our earth:
Please do not litter! Littering is not good for our soil, our water, or our animals.

About the author:

Deanna Murray is a graduate student at Lesley University. She loves vegetables and buys them at local farmers markets to support farmers like Shani.

Definitions:

Social Justice: Making sure things are fair for everyone.

Farm Manager: Someone who is in charge of the farm.

Litter: Throwing trash on the ground.



Taylor

McKinnon

Caretaker of Our Earth



This is Taylor. She grew up in Boston. She went to both Needham and Boston public schools.



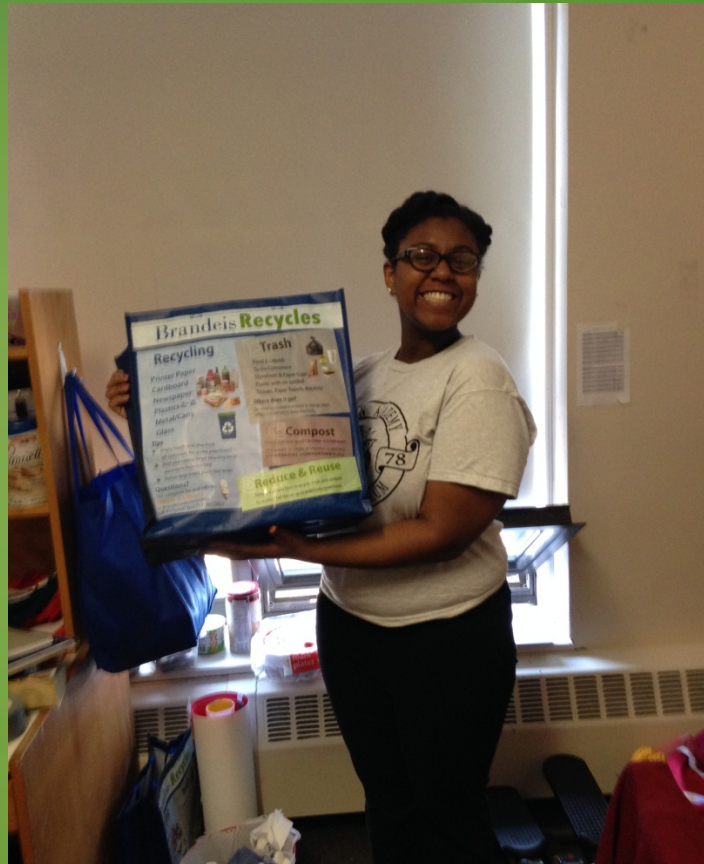
When she was younger, her favorite things to do were draw, read, and write.



Her favorite thing to write about was nature because she loved animals and flowers. She would write about what she saw outside her classroom window.



In sixth grade, Taylor learned about pollution and recycling at school. Since she loved nature, she decided to start recycling.



Taylor is in college now. She has taught her friends about the importance of recycling. Taylor also gives them tips to help save energy.



Things like turning off lights and water when not in use, reusing bags and bottles, and recycling paper all help our earth!

Taylor has made it her goal to recycle as much as possible, as well as teach other people to do the same. She is a caretaker of our earth!

About The Author

Andrew Di Sorbo is a K1 teacher at Bridge Boston Charter School in
Dorchester, MA. He tries to recycle as much as he can. Taylor just happens to
be a friend of his!

Glossary:

Caretaker: person who helps living things and places

Nature: all things that are not made by people

Recycle: to make old materials into new materials

Pollution: materials that harm the environment