

## CELEBRATING EARTH DAY

*Equine Park, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia: 25 March 2010...* There were hues of brown, green and blue as you approach The Alice Smith School Secondary Campus at Equine Park one morning. The theme colours were representation of colours of the earth to mark the launch of Earth Day at the school.

Matthias Gelber also known as Mr Green was the guest speaker at the school assembly. Matthias was voted the Greenest Person on the Planet in 2008. The organisers of the award, 3rd Whale, call it the American Idol for green people.

Hailing from the small town of Lippe in Germany, Matthias' passion for nature and the environment was instilled when he was a kid playing in his backyard. "Suffice to say I grew up in my own 'kampung' in Germany where there were only about 500 people" he said at the school assembly.

Matthias shared with the students his passion in protecting the environment using some of his personal practices including reduction of consumption, living without a car, recycling, using energy efficiency strategies and other practical environmental actions.

"We are taking environmental issues increasingly seriously at the school. To celebrate Earth Day, we've lined up a series of activities throughout the day to create awareness and fundraising," said Asif Chishti, Earth Day organiser and teacher.

Apart from students wearing earth colours on the day, other activities include student organised food and games stalls, car wash services and green stalls selling reusable bags. A dedicated website was also set-up for parents, staff and students at the school to make a green pledge for the year ahead, not just for Earth Day.

Throughout the day, there was no air-conditioning to see how much energy the school could save.

All monies raised from these activities will be channeled to the 'World Land Trust', one of the projects based in Malaysian Borneo to preserve the rainforest for orangutans and other endangered species.

The Alice Smith School believes in educating the young in ways to protect the environment and the world in which we live. Adds Matthias, "My mission is NOT to exploit Mother Earth, but to nurture her and live in peace and harmony with my fellow citizens on this precious planet. There is only one Earth, we need to take good care of it."

And it is our mission too here at The Alice Smith School.



Matthias Gelber, the Greenest Person on the Planet in 2008 and Asif Chishti, the Greenest Teacher at the school



Reusable bags on sale for RM 1 each



Hard at work washing cars for a good cause