

**DO YOU WANT TO ENJOY YOUR CHILD'S BIRTHDAY PARTY?**

**LET US DO ALL THE WORK!**

**LEAPIN' LIZARDS.**

**\$339<sup>99\*</sup>**  
2-Hour Party package

- Invitation & Balloons
- Play time in our indoor playground
- Private Party Room with hostess
- Pizza or hot dogs with soda
- Carvel Ice Cream Cake
- 16 game tokens per child for arcade

**914-937-JUMP**  
to reserve now!

Visit us on the web at [www.leaplizards.com](http://www.leaplizards.com)  
Kohl's Shopping Center in Port Chester, NY  
421 Boston Post Rd. 3rd Floor (right off of I-95, I-287 on Boston Post Rd.)

**Save \$15.00 Off Your Child's Party With This Coupon**  
Good Only If Booked By 9/30/09

\* For 10 children, each additional child \$ 24.99

## Education

# Bringing the Planet into the Classroom

By Renee Cho

Amee Ostensen's second graders at Manhattan Country School learn about the pizza they eat by creating a food chain comic strip tracing its ingredients back to the wheat field, the vegetable garden, and the cow. Fourth graders in Shelley Land's class at West Elementary School in New Canaan use the plastic bottle caps they collect and recycle to practice estimating, graphing, measurement, and decimals.

Looking at classroom subjects through the lens of environmental impacts is a fundamental part of Sustainable Education (SE), a movement that teaches children a new way of thinking, incorporating environmental stewardship, economic security, and social equity. The Children's Environmental Literacy Foundation (CELFF), headquartered in Chappaqua, was created to help schools and teachers incorporate sustainability into the K-12 curriculum.

### Why CELFF?

Chappaqua parent Katie Ginsberg, the passionate and dynamic force behind CELFF, was inspired to found the organization seven years ago after her older son, then in fourth grade, came home excited about Earth Day activities he had learned about – water monitoring, changing light bulbs, recycling, etc. But after a week, he never mentioned them again. Katie noted his quick drop in enthusiasm and asked herself, "If this is all the environmental education our kids are getting, how will we ever solve our big problems?"

She called some schools to find out what kinds of environmental programs were available and learned that sustainability was only occasionally taught in science class or introduced in an assembly program. Katie believed there had to be a way to



CELFF Founder Katie Ginsberg

thread environmental education into the daily school curriculum — and set out to do something about it.

Not having a background in education was a huge advantage. "If I had known then what teachers have to deal with on the frontlines in the classroom, I wouldn't have believed I could get anything done," Katie says. In fact, her background in marketing proved much more useful, helping her find the right way to communicate CELFF's message to a broad audience. Beginning in 2003, Katie started going into schools to give Introduction to Sustainability programs to raise awareness about the concepts of SE.

SE is more than just environmental education, she explains. It relies on "systems thinking," a way of viewing problems, not in isolation, but in relation to the big picture. It takes into consideration good citizenship, how economies work, and the implications and impacts of different decisions on our natural resources. It teaches that everything is connected.

Continued on page 52

