



NEWSLETTER

**SAW KILL WATERSHED
COMMUNITY**

Issue 6: May 13th, 2020

*Protecting the Saw Kill watershed and its ecological, recreational,
and historic resources through hands-on science, education, and advocacy.*



Lindsey Drew

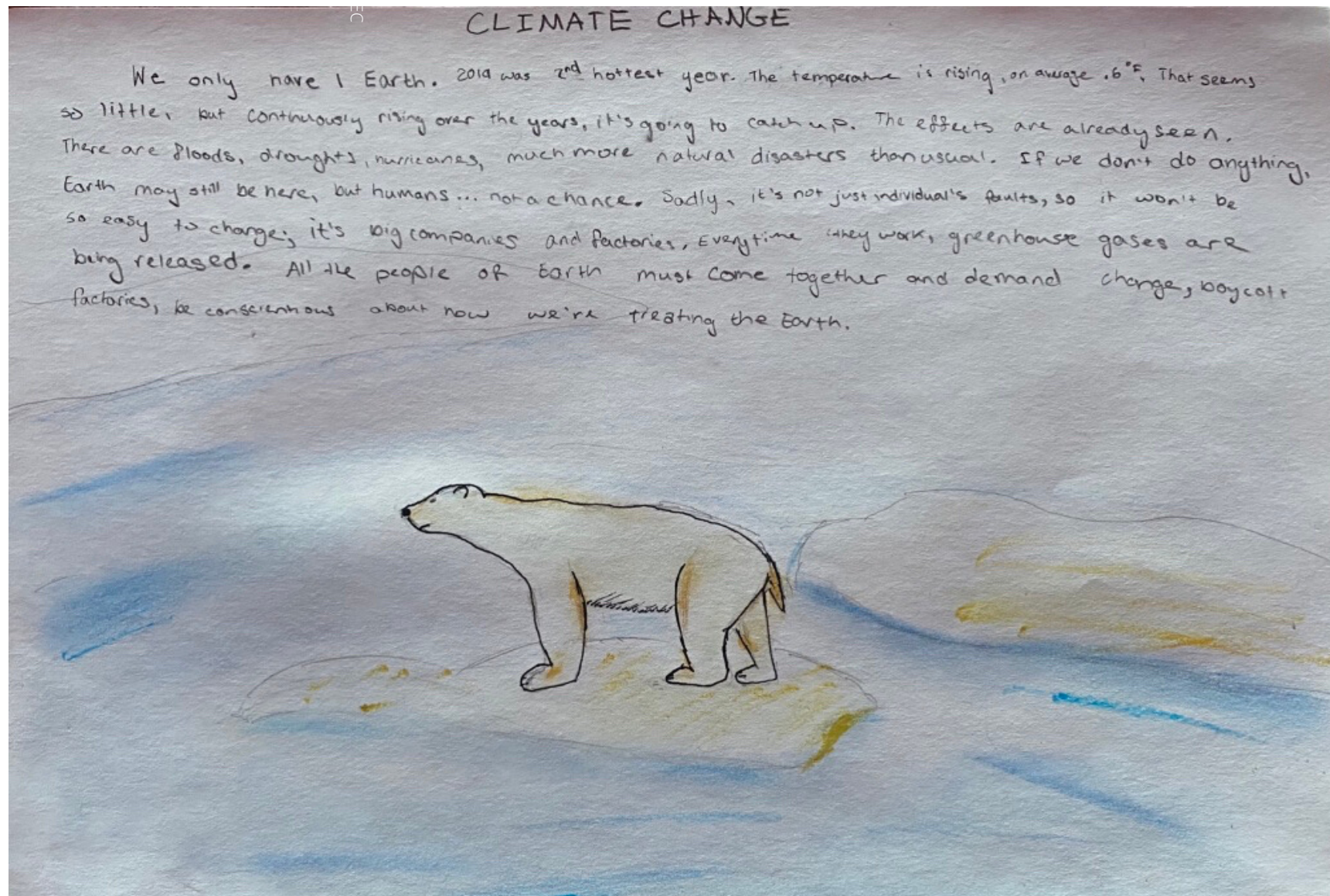
A NOTE FROM: SKWC LEADERSHIP TEAM

In honor of Earth Day 50 this year we got in touch with some teachers at the Red Hook Central School District with an interest in shining the light on some young voices in the community!

We kept our questions open-ended: What does Earth Day mean to you? What kinds of issues in the environment are you passionate about? What kind of progress do you hope to see in the future?

And sure enough-our community's young people had a bit to say! We would like to dedicate this week's newsletter to showcase the beautiful and creative work of six young minds-each a student in Larra Agate's 8th grade Living Environment class at Linden Avenue Middle School. Although we may be socially distanced at the moment, these students are clearly thinking about important issues like waste reduction, upcycling, plastic alternatives, and climate resiliency.

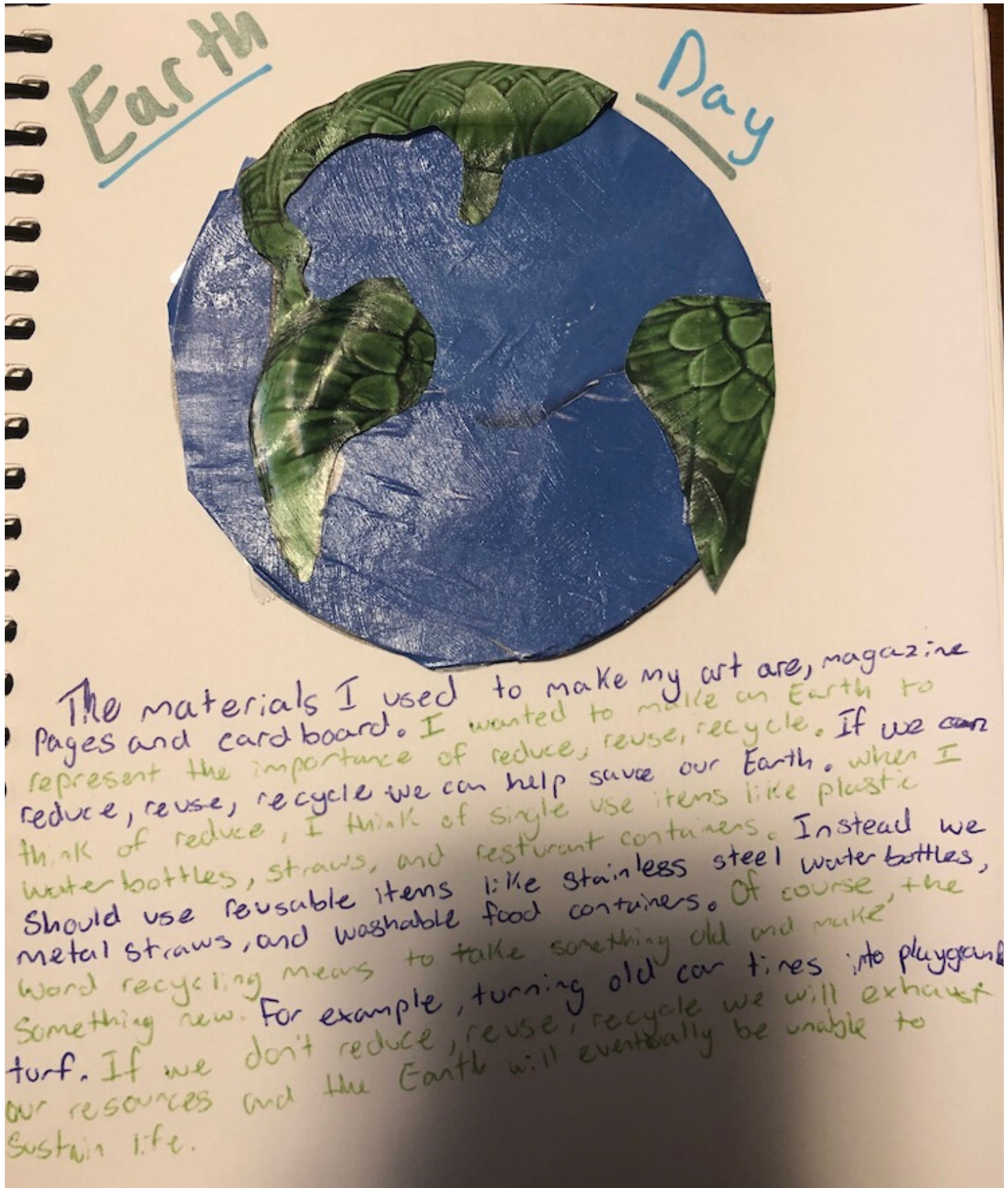
We look forward to seeing the great work that they do moving forward.



We only have one Earth. 2019 was the 2nd hottest year. The temperature is rising, on average 0.6°F. That seems so little, but continuously rising over the years, it's going to catch up. The effects are already seen. There are floods, droughts, hurricanes, and many more natural disasters than usual. If we don't do anything Earth may still be here, but humans... not a chance. Sadly, it's not just individual's faults, so it won't be so easy to change; it's big companies and factories. Every time they work, greenhouse gases are being released. All the people of Earth must come together and demand change, boycotts factories, be conscientious about how we're treating the Earth.



This piece represents a tree burning to show an increase in wildfires brought on by climate change.



The materials I used to make my art are magazine pages and cardboard. I wanted to make an Earth to represent the importance of reduce, reuse, recycle. If we can reduce, reuse, recycle we can help save our Earth. When I think of reduce, I think of single use items like plastic water bottles, straws, and restaurant containers. Instead we should use reusable items like stainless steel water bottles, metal straws, and washable for containers. Of course, the word recycling means to take something old and make something new. For example, turning old car tires into playground turf. If we don't reduce, reuse, recycle we will exhaust our resources and the Earth will eventually be unable to sustain life.



Plastics:

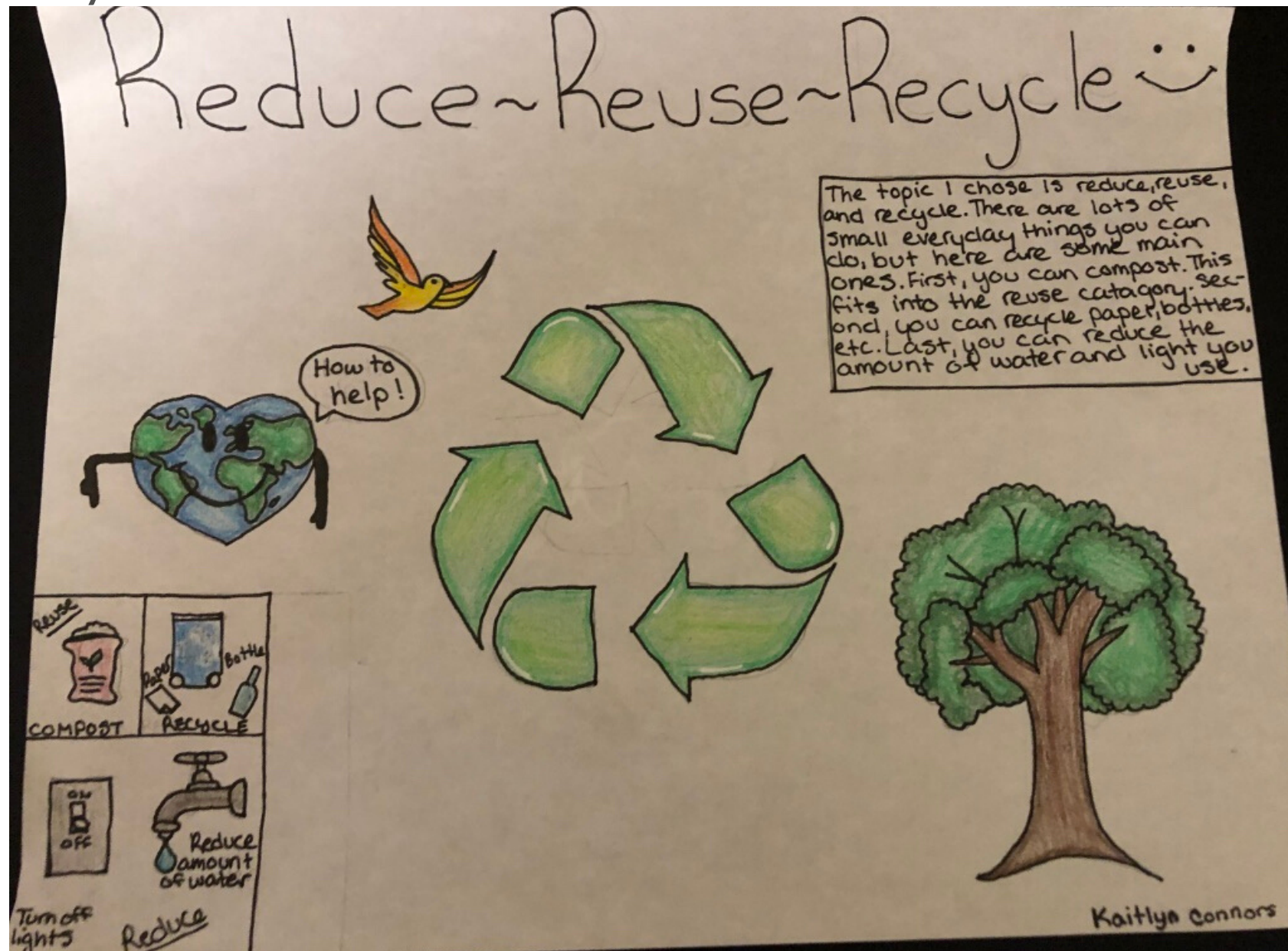
These plastic products are not good for our air nor the animals we share this planet with. Because we use so much plastic it is in our air. It kills our animals. We don't even need this product, it just makes things more convenient. I think if we put the same amount of effort we put into watching Netflix we could clean the oceans. If we put in the effort we could stop killing marine animals because we forget. Just because we are at the food chain, it is their home too.

About materials I used: I used reused gems from old projects and my sister's makeup looks.



Waste produced by a family dinner feeding 3 humans and 1 dog

The United States produces 268 millions tons of solid waste each year, or 4.5 pounds per person per day. Only 48% of this is reused, repurposed or recycled. 52% ends up in landfills. This landfill waste weighs about the same as 100 African elephants. We have to do better!



The topic I chose is reduce, reuse, and recycle. There are lots of small everyday things you can do, but here are some main ones. First, you can compost. This fits into the reuse category. Second, you can recycle paper, bottles, etc. Last, you can reduce the amount of water and light you use.

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