



Earth Day Birthday!

April 22, 2015

Dear Parents,

For over twenty years, the first grade students at Pine City Elementary have conducted a coin drive to save the rainforests, in honor of Earth Day. In 2015, funds from Big Gift to the Earth will again be directed to help protect Amazonian rainforest on the continent of South America. Our students' coin collections fund 40% of the work being done in Peru by Nature and Culture International. **THESE ARE YOUR PENNIES AT WORK!** Nature and Culture International is currently purchasing land, working with surrounding communities and strengthening legislation at these three sites in Peru:

- Marañon River Watershed, Cajamarca side
- Chinchipe River Regional Protected Area
- Cajamarca-Condor Tepuis Regional Protected Area

These rainforests contain many endemic species of animals and plants, which means that these species are especially adapted to survive in these forests and nowhere else.

Every penny collected by students becomes a square yard of protected rainforest. Can you imagine how much rainforest is protected each year when students from all across the country send in their donations? Each donation may seem small, but together, they add up to a **BIG GIFT!**

Be part of something BIG! Every year, students and teachers around the United States raise funds to purchase and protect threatened habitats and conserve critically endangered species. Since 1989, their combined efforts have raised \$6 million to save more than 625,000 acres of tropical rainforest in 9 countries on 4 continents.

If you are interested in having your child participate in this project, please have him/her bring in any amount of coins to their classroom between April 20 - May 8.

Sincerely,
First Grade Teachers