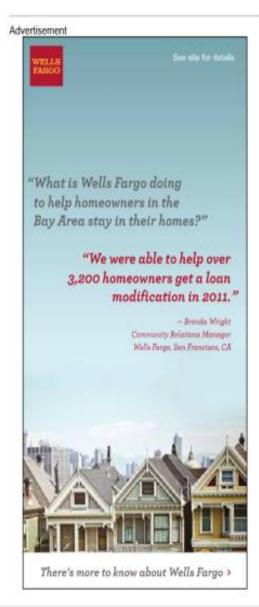


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"Two Tales from a Kidl" encourages children to be kind to one another and the environment. "Geckoboy. The Battle of Fracking" aims to teach kids about the destructive consequences of fracking, when energy companies drill and inject fluid into the ground in order to fracture shale to release natural gas.

Pavan's curiosity about green issues has never wavered, said his mother, Shanti Balaraman.

"He had so many questions when he was little and I told him he needed to find the answers himself," Balaraman said. "So, he started interviewing park rangers about Lake Elizabeth in Fremont, asking them about duck habitats and geese migration."

Balaraman said Pavan is able to stay so busy because he completes work very quickly. "As a mom, I look to see if he is getting stressed out, but he still has time to play basketball and video games," she said.

Pavan now is creating a sculpture made from bottle caps, using art to let people know that the caps are not recyclable and, hence, an environmental hazard. The artwork will be showcased at the next Green Kids Conference and later donated to the city of Fremont, Balaraman said.

Perhaps because of his long list of accomplishments, Pavan has faced some teasing from classmates. But he said he tends to shrug that off.

"I know that I cannot convince everyone to care about the environment," he said. "I leave those who don't want to listen behind, and I join together with those who really care. All I want is my generation and future generations to live."

Last week, Pavan's work gamered another honor – the John Muir Association gave him the Youth Environmental Conservation Award.

"Now it will be easier to reach out to more kids and do even more," he said of his awards. "Now people will take me more seriously."

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Nekkanti Prashanti, the owner of Prashanti Arts Studio, uses a hot glue gun on a plastic cap before placing it on a sculpture made by Pavan Gowda, 13, in Fremont, Calif., on Thursday, April 25, 2013. Gowda's sculpture, made with the help from students from the Prashanti Arts Studio, highlights the fact that plastic caps are not recyclable. The 7th-grader, whose passion is the environment, has also founded the "Green Kids Now, inc." nonprofit, written two kids' books and received the EPA's 2012 President's Environmental Youth Award. (Doug Duran/Bay Area News Group)



Pavan Gowda, 13, of Fremont, left, with the help of students from the Prashanti Arts Studio and parents, work on a sculpture made of plastic caps in Fremont, Calif., on Thursday, April 25, 2013. Gowda's sculpture highlights the fact that plastic caps are not recyclable. The 7th-grader, whose passion is the environment, has also founded the "Green Kids Now, Inc.," nongreaft, written two kids' books and received the EPA's 2012 President's Environmental Youth Award. (Doug Duran/Bay Area News Group)

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