



STEVEN HAUSLER / Hays Daily News

Stan Slaughter, Lee's Summit, Mo., leads children in a song about recycling Monday at Roosevelt Elementary School in Hays. The program was part of the Kansas Solid Waste Education Program.

# SPEAKER RECYCLING IDEAS

By DIANE GASPER-O'BRIEN  
HAYS DAILY NEWS

Want to get a message across about saving our planet? Tell elementary school students over and over and over again.

That's what Stan Slaughter has been doing for the past 15 years, and he thinks it's making a difference.

Slaughter, a former biology and physical science teacher from Lee's Summit, Mo., is on a two-and-a-half week tour of western Kansas, giving free educational presentations on saving our environment.

Monday, he stopped at Lincoln and Roosevelt elementary schools in Hays, and his message of "reduce, reuse, recycle, re-think" included music and singing and best of all — involved the students in the presentation.

"It makes it more fun with the music," said Slaughter, who accompanies the earth songs on an acoustic guitar.

Slaughter gives a lively performance, talking about the importance of saving our earth and telling the children "we need to take care of that little blue ball because it's the only home we'll ever have."

Before his visits, Slaughter sends out information packets to teachers that include CDs with his songs on them. The music teachers at Lincoln and Roosevelt taught their students the songs the last couple of weeks, so they were able to sing along.



Dennis Jackson, a second-grade student at Roosevelt, center, gets into the program Monday afternoon as students learn about the importance of recycling.

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# THE HAYS DAILY NEWS

THE VOICE OF THE HIGH PLAINS

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## RECYCLE: Students, teachers enjoy presentation from guest speaker

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Carolyn Nichols, who teaches fourth-grade science at Lincoln, said she liked the idea of having the environment presentation during the first semester even though that part of her curriculum is scheduled for second semester.

"I usually wait until Earth Day in April, but they remember this from what they learned," she said. "It's nice to bring up at the beginning of school, because it's a reminder again then in April."

### FIND OUT MORE ONLINE

More can be found on Stan Slaughter's presentations on environmental education by visiting his Web site at [www.stanslaughter.com](http://www.stanslaughter.com).

Slaughter contracts with the Kansas Department of Health and Environment, and in 15 years has visited about half a million students in 2,000 schools across 25 states.

"You have to believe it makes a difference," Slaughter said. "It

gets them a comprehensive fun message at a young age, and they'll hear this again. It's not going away"

Slaughter's trip to western Kansas began with last week's "Wacky Day" at Kirwin Reservoir, where sixth- and seventh-graders from six area counties learned about wildlife, agriculture and conservation and will end Oct. 6 in St. John and Stafford.

He said he enjoys traveling the state and teaching youngsters about stewardship.

"It's the idea that we're using up resources on the planet, and we need to use them well," said Slaughter, who stressed the "re-think" part of his four R's. "And recycling is one piece of it."

"These are new golden rules, new truths that we know about the planet," he added. "We have new understandings. We need new nursery rhymes."

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