



Eco-friendly pillars of art

Totem poles made of recycled materials help raise students' environmental awareness, writes **Elaine Yau**

Gathered around a colourful totem pole decorated with designs of animals and plants, six students from Clearwater Bay School proudly showcased their labour of love and spelled out the green messages behind their work.

The project, co-organised by CLP Power and the Hong Kong Youth Arts Foundation, aimed to spread the message about sustainable energy among students.

A total of 150 students from four primary schools had hammered away at the big pillars of art since February. Guided by their art teachers and artists from the foundation, the students decorated the totem poles with recycled materials such as used cardboard and plastic. Each pillar had a solar panel at the top to power electrical items like LED lights and small fans.

Jane Lau Yuk-yin, director of group public affairs at CLP Power, said they hoped the younger generation would be motivated to adopt a

sustainable lifestyle through the project.

"Totems represent the harmonious co-existence between nature and mankind," she said. "The fact that the totem poles are made of recycled materials can also raise students' environmental awareness."

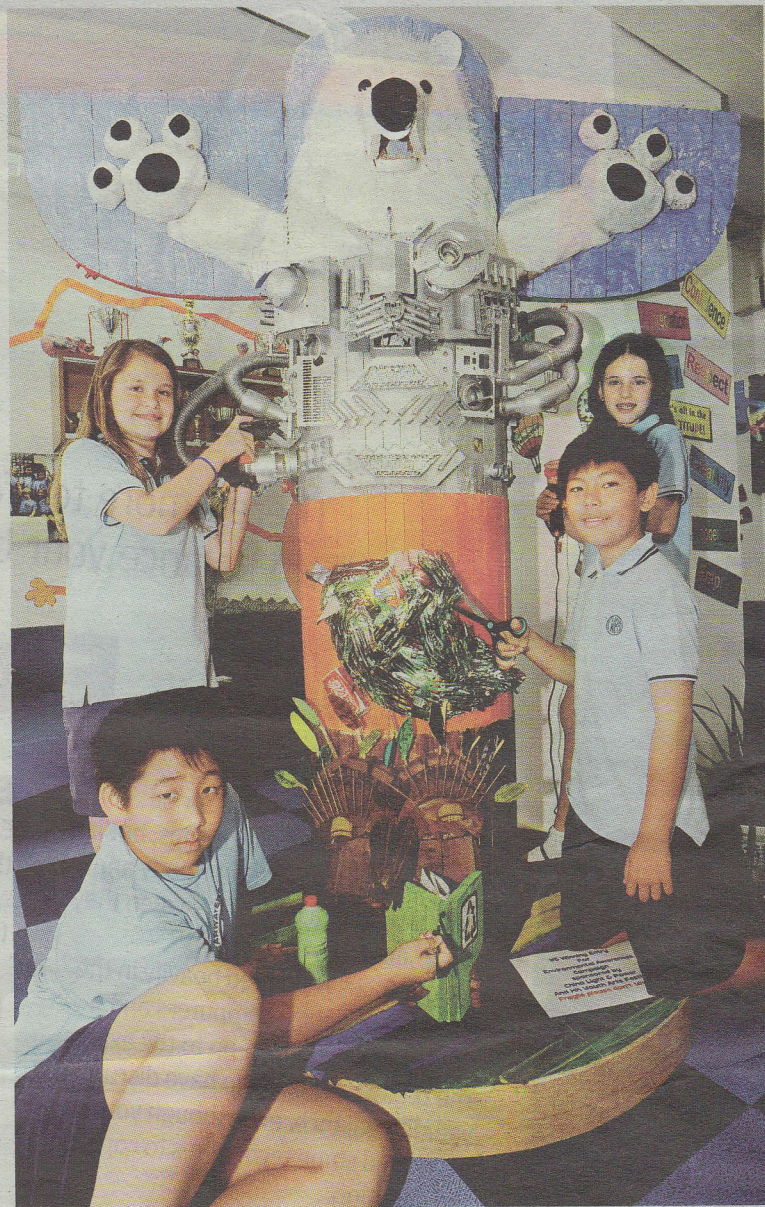
The totem created by the six Grade Six students from

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Clearwater Bay School – Mother Earth – had images of plants and polar bears. The six budding artists hoped their work would make their fellow students pay attention to the worsening environment.

James Hughes, 10, said they prepared all the materials themselves.

"We had to cut all the



STUDENTS FROM CLEARWATER BAY SCHOOL (CLOCKWISE, FROM TOP LEFT) INES CATAGNET, 11, MARTHA TAYLOR, 10, JAMES HUGHES, 10, AND JASON WONG, 10, WITH THE ENVIRONMENTAL TOTEM POLE THEY BUILT AS PART OF A CLP POWER PROJECT. **PHOTO: STEVE CRAY**

materials like cans and plastic bottles," he said. "I even hurt my finger during the process but it's recovered now."

Sophie Patterson, 11, appealed to her fellow students to use environmentally friendly light bulbs to save energy.

Lauren Hotasi Young, 11,

came up with a more revolutionary measure to help combat pollution. "We could ask companies to close for two days a year so that the Earth can recover quicker," she said. "We could also limit the number of ships crossing the harbour to [reduce] pollution in the sea."