



Yet another: Christina Carlson and Robin Gioia buy leaves to add to the rain forest exhibit.

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guage Arts program.

Last Thursday, on the opposite side of the cafeteria from the big and bright mural, students from all grades were lining up at a booth to adopt any remaining animals and plants and at the same time enter a raffle, held Friday.

"He's actually contributing from his own lunch money, his allowance," said Dorothy Welsh, Michael's mom and a volunteer at the booth throughout the week. "All of the sixth-graders have been behind the project all the way."

Proceeds from the weeklong sale helped Power Middle School raise the \$360 it needs to by March 1 in order to adopt a Peruvian school, and help fund educational basics that Americans often take for granted, such as paper and chalk. Later it was learned that enough money was generated to adopt two schools, said the person who spearheaded the project, Power sixth-grade teacher Carol Czajkowski.

More than \$700 has been collected with students "still counting and rolling change," she said Tuesday, estimating about \$750 will be the final tally.

"They've been doing (public address) announcements every day, there's been a whole lot of excitement" toward participating in the fund-raiser, said Czajkowski.

ki. "To see it (mural) grow from bare trees to what we have now... and at the same time they're learning about the rain forest, the diversity of the rain forest."

"As they look up they can see all kinds of plants and animals represented."

Indeed, many diverse animals spiced up the cafeteria jungle. There were red-eyed tree frogs and a toucan tropical bird on one tree. Highlighting another tree were creatures as diverse as jaguars, macaw birds and "happy eagles." Anchoring the mural, at the bottom, was an artful rendition of the Amazon River, complete with snapping piranhas.

Augmenting the various animals were rain forest-type leaves and plants, the kind being placed on the mural by sixth-grader Alex Vyn.

"I just want to help other schools get supplies," said Alex. "I'd say it really does resemble a rain forest."

It was Czajkowski's idea to enter Power into the Adopt-A-School Program, sponsored by the Alabama-based ACEER Foundation and Conapac, located in Peru.

During the first part of the school year, the teacher showed slides of her own visit to Peru and convinced her class that kids living in one-room rural schoolhouses needed much more to have a chance to receive a good education.

All sixth-grade teachers at Power had a part in planning the effort, said Czajkowski.

Then, in October, sixth-graders generated \$116 in a pumpkin-decorating fund-raiser, to get the money-raising ball rolling. Since then, students have plopped spare change into canisters in the



Idea: Teacher Carol Czajkowski says that in the process of helping a Peruvian school, students are learning about the rain forest.

cafeteria and brought in \$200 worth of returnable pop cans and bottles.

Now look at that ball. It's really picking up speed.

"We're past adopting one school and we're on our way to adopting a second," said Czajkowski Thursday, beaming with pride at the dedication shown by students. (By early this week, she found out enough money was raised to adopt two schools.)

A wild card in the successful quest for \$700 was the raffle, including items such as Beanie Babies and other stuffed animals, donated by Czajkowski, Dorothy Welsh and goodies from Rain Forest Cafe in Auburn Hills. (These included a T-shirt, \$25 gift certificate and big toy frog.)

Power's contribution to the Peruvian school will be sent along with a penned-in-Spanish letter.

"And we're supposed to get some correspondence back," Czajkowski said.

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## Students win gift certificates, toys and T-shirts for their effort

Winners of Friday's "Adopt-A-Peruvian School" raffle at Power Middle School included the following students:

- Rain forest Cafe \$25 gift certificate - Robert Escott (first-place choice).
- Large red-eyed tree frog - Kevin Boskey (third-place choice).
- Tree frog T-shirt - Kelsey L. Smith (11th-place choice).
- Large green frog - Nicole Krasuski (second-place choice).

The prizes were provided by the Rain forest Cafe at the Great Lakes Crossing Mall in Auburn Hills.

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