April is always a short but busy month, with third quarter ending, fourth quarter beginning, and Earth Day celebrations taking place just before vacation. Many activities took place in the library and around the school.

Students in Ms. Demain’s physics class used the computers in the library to conduct a virtual lab on sound waves and the doppler effect. They examined how the waves travel and interact based on speed and location and compared their findings to what they learned in class.

Mr. Husmann’s 7th grade Language Arts students wrote and recorded their own “This I Believe” moment, inspired by the NPR radio show. Each student listened to three other students’ recording and provided helpful feedback to improve both the content and the delivery of the moment. Students then had the opportunity to record a second time.

Mr. Smith’s biology students visited the library and used a carbon footprint calculator on the lab computers to determine how many Earths would be consumed if the entire world population followed the habits of the average American teenager. The results were startling, and many students commented that they had no idea their lifestyles had such an impact.

Mr. Nyhan and Mr. Vallée presented the concept of “20% time” projects to students in 8th grade Social Studies. Over the course of 8 weeks, students will research and create a product that will display their understanding of a topic of their choice. With multiple checkpoints along the way, this concept enables students to further explore interesting ideas related to Social Studies but which may not be covered in class.

Finally, several Earth Day activities took place in the library. Ms. Fox led activities including magazine art and crowd-sourced fish counting, for the purpose of establishing the health of a river. Students enjoyed both activities and were thrilled to make a real world connection.