

Freiler celebrates Earth Day

By Cicily Palmisano
Our Town

In honor of Earth Day today, fourth-graders from Freiler Elementary School have created paintings of California poppies. The artwork will make its debut at 7 p.m. Thursday at the Tracy Historical Museum, 1141 Adam St.

Freiler fourth-grade teacher Adele Bloch loved poppies as a child. With a noticeable decline in golden poppy sightings, Bloch decided it was important to bring back the joy she once got from seeing them line the side of the road.

"It was such a big deal when I saw one as a child," Bloch recalled. "This was really a chance to get involved and see poppies around again."

The students were encouraged by Bloch and the Tracy Regional Alliance for a Quality Community's Educational Foundation to learn about



ARTSY: Celeste Garamendi arranges children's paintings of poppies that are on display at the Tracy Historical Museum.

Raquel Castillo/
Our Town

and appreciate their state flower, and they were also sent seeds to plant in the community. Once Bloch began the art project, the students were reluctant to move on to different assignments.

"For days following the end of the project, I had children coming to the classroom to turn in new paintings and start another," Bloch said.

Opening night at the Tracy Historical Museum will feature not only the student artists, but museum tours and a presentation on

California wildflowers.

"We really want to raise awareness of the natural heritage and beauty of our city and region, as well as use this as an opportunity to showcase student's artwork," said Celeste Garamendi, member on the board of TRAQC's Educational Foundation. "We hope this is the first of many student showcases to come."

For information: Tracy Historical Museum, 832-7278; or TRAQC Educational Foundation, 914-0792 or tef@starbrand.net.