



THE GREEN TEAM Newsletter

Spring 2006

It's spring! The birds are singing, the flowers are blooming, and change is in the air. This spring The Green Team has many exciting announcements for our Green Team teachers. ●

Learning Standards

Have you ever wondered if The Green Team lessons and activities are aligned to the Massachusetts Department of Education's Frameworks? They are! From Slash Trash, to setting up a school recycling program, The Green Team activities fulfill many MassDOE standards. To find out how each lesson and activity addresses the standards, go to the Green Team Library & Curricula page. ●

Clean Air

Now that it's spring, have you been thinking about air quality? If so, then The Green Team has the lesson for you. In March 2006 The Green Team published a brand new Idling Reduction Lesson. You can learn about how air pollution affects you on a local level, and what you can do to help lessen it. This lesson is packed with new vocabulary and interesting facts. Also included is an Idling Reduction Pledge where students encourage their families to help fight pollution. Look for more Clean Air Activities from the Green Team next fall. ●



www.TheGreenTeam.org



Student Leadership Council Recycling Committee at the Winthrop School.

Earth Month!

The first Earth Day was held in 1970 celebrating the birth of the modern environmental movement. While Earth Day 2006 was April 22nd, we believe every day is Earth Day and feel it is important to highlight how individual efforts can make a real difference. Here are some cool facts about how recycling helps conserve energy.

- Recycling one aluminum can saves enough energy to run your television for three hours.
- Glass recycling saves 25-30% of the energy used to make glass from raw materials.
- Each year in Massachusetts, energy savings from recycling equate to 66 million gallons of gasoline or a years worth of gas for 70,000 automobiles.



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Wondering what you can do with your classroom for Earth Month?

Have a Waste Free Lunch Day/Week: Hold a contest to see which classroom makes the least amount of litter during lunch time for a day or a whole week.

Organize a schoolyard or neighborhood clean-up: Pick up garbage from your school yard or favorite neighborhood spots. Educate your school and community on how litter affects everyone.

Create Earth Month signs or posters: Have students create posters or signs for the community recycling center, library, Town Hall, or school to remind other students, family members, and neighbors why and how to recycle, reduce, reuse, and compost.

Plant native trees and flowers: Spruce up your schoolyard or local park to keep the planet healthy. ●

Teacher Response Forms are in!!!

Thank you for turning in your Teacher Response Form! Over 75 Teacher Response Forms were submitted and the responses were impressive. Green Team Certificates and prizes are on the way. Below is a sampling of how some of The Green Team students responded to the Program. Notice how the students often learned beyond the three Rs!

"The students learned responsibility by following the weekly schedule for bin pick-ups and participating in the weekly maintenance of the program."

Beth Nolan-Stack
Murkland School, Lowell

"These activities helped to make students more aware of the trash they were generating, as well as the ways that they could all do their part to reduce, reuse and recycle both in school and at home."

Katie Epmeier
Montessori School, Cambridge

"The class benefited tremendously. They worked in double sessions 90 minutes and the time flew by. Their energy level was very high and they loved getting their hands dirty in the project."

Marie McEachern
Barnstable Horace Mann Charter School,
Marstons Mills

"It amazed me how many kids didn't know about recycling and how many didn't know that paper is made from trees. This was a real educational project for some of them!"

Diana Antul
Hubbardston Center School, Hubbardston

"They have learned to be better consumers."

Ellyn Feerick
Holten-Richmond Middle School, Danvers

"We learned that natural resources should not be wasted. Students are now able to save resources by shutting off lights and water when students are not using them."

Stephanie Selznick
O.W. Holmes School, Dorchester

What's Around the Corner?

Stay tuned for The Green Team Summer 2006 Newsletter. We'll be covering topics such as:

- The end of the year synopsis;
- Awards and prizes;
- What you can look forward to from The Green Team for the 2006-2007 school year.



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