



2004-2005 Green Team Prize Winners and Their Projects

Northeastern Massachusetts

AMESBURY

Each and every one of the 100 students in Bruce McBrien's fourth-grade classes took the Green Team pledge and took turns collecting recyclables from each classroom. In addition, the students made posters in the computer lab and set up an outdoor compost bin. "All of our students have really benefited from the program," said Mr. McBrien. "To see a first-grader catch the hand of a friend as they are throwing something away and say 'Hey, that goes in the blue bin!' really makes it all worthwhile!" The class received a Certificate of Recognition as "Environmental Eagles" for completing all three levels of Green Team activities. These students received a participatory Earthtunes concert for the entire school as their Green Team prize.

BOSTON

CARTER SCHOOL- At the Carter School, Dana Romanczyk, Jill Wilhite, Abby Marsa, Nicole Davis and Jelly Flores joined their classes in a school-wide effort to recycle. The students all took the Green Team pledge, read books and viewed videos from the Green Team library and set up a school recycling program using bins they received from the Green Team. "Our students were able to participate in real-life/world changing activities," said Ms. Romanczyk. "This program also reduced the amount of trash each week." Each of these classes received a Certificate of Recognition as "Environmental Eagles" for completing all three levels of Green Team activities. The students at the Carter School won a recycling magic show by Peter O'Malley from The Green Team.

JOHN D. PHILBRICK ELEMENTARY- Students from the third, fourth, and fifth-grades at Philbrick Elementary School in Roslindale, under the direction of Boston Nature Center's Erica Quigley, took part in an after-school program to learn about waste and waste management. They created a model "landfill" to determine what different kinds of trash would still be in the soil two months later. Using equipment from the Green Team, the students set up a school paper

recycling program and a classroom worm bin. They even made recycled paper to learn about the recycling process. Together, they wrote a letter to the editor of the Roslindale Bulletin about recycling and created posters for the school. "The students got the background information about why recycling is important, and what the process is," said Ms. Quigley. "They learned why reducing waste is important." The group received a Certificate of Recognition as "Environmental Eagles" for completing all three levels of Green Team activities. The students won a recycling magic show by Peter O'Malley as their Green Team grand prize.

ST. BRENDAN SCHOOL- Julie Marotta's fifth-grade class at the St. Brendan School in Dorchester tracked and reduced their household trash and helped set up a school recycling program using bins supplied by the Green Team. The students created posters for the school and spoke in every classroom to encourage other students and faculty to recycle. "The students learned so much and the lesson plan enhanced our science curriculum," said Mrs. Marotta. The class received a Certificate of Recognition as "Environmental Eagles" for completing all three levels of Green Team activities. Each student received a mini-recycling bin planter with seeds as a prize from the Green Team.

ST. MARY, STAR OF THE SEA- Stacy Director's fifth-grade students at St. Mary, Star of the Sea School in East Boston made recycling posters for the school and collected clothing and books to donate to St. Vincent de Paul and to a local hospital. Some of the books went the school's library. "Students were impressed with the overwhelming response from the school and realized the amount of items that will benefit countless people in the community," reported Ms. Director. The class received a Certificate of Recognition as "Environmental Eagles" for completing all three levels of Green Team activities. Each student received a mini-recycling bin planter and seeds as a prize from the Green Team.



BROOKLINE

The kindergarten class of Peggy DiPace completed several activities as Green Team members. They made posters for the school cafeteria. A parent came to help them set up a worm bin and the students observed it every day. Students also made recycled paper. "Everything was so helpful," said Ms. DiPace. "I could not even begin to use it all so look forward to more fun next year!" The class received a Certificate of Recognition as "Environmental Eagles" for completing all three levels of Green Team activities. The students received a recycling magic show by Peter O'Malley as their Green Team prize.

MELROSE

At the Herbert Clark Hoover School in Melrose, Susan McBrine and Beverly Patton teamed up with their second-grade students to create very colorful posters that generated an awareness of recycling. They also held a waste-free lunch day and set up ongoing printer cartridge, cell phone and paper recycling programs. The class received a Certificate of Recognition as "Environmental Eagles" for completing all three levels of Green Team activities. The classes received a recycling magic show by Peter O'Malley as their Green Team prize.

MERRIMAC

In Susan Simmons fourth-grade class at the H.R. Donaghue School, the students created recycling signs, and made figures out of recycled items to hold the recycling signs, which they placed throughout the school. In addition, they found that joining the Green Team enhanced their study of natural resources in social studies. "These activities definitely increased the students' awareness of recycling," said Ms. Simmons. "They began to make suggestions, such as using both sides of the paper when writing compositions. It was great to see them thinking of ways to conserve in the classroom." The class received a Certificate of Recognition as "Environmental Eagles" for completing all three levels of Green Team activities. The students received a recycling magic show by Peter O'Malley as their Green Team prize.

MILTON

With support from parents, the 21 students of Rebecca Warner's fifth-grade Green Team are striving to make Glover School a Certified Courtyard Habitat complete with composting and worm bins. In addition, the students tracked and reduced their household trash, wrote let-

ters, created posters, set up an outdoor composting bin and a school recycling program for paper and plastic. "Students are much more aware of what they can do at home as well as at school to reduce, reuse and recycle," said Ms. Warner. The class received a Certificate of Recognition as "Environmental Eagles" for completing all three levels of Green Team activities. The students received an interactive Earthtunes concert for the school as their Green Team prize.

Southeastern Massachusetts

BARNSTABLE/MARSTONS MILLS

Fifth-grade students at Barnstable Horace Mann Charter School, led by Marie McEachern and Marie Sullivan, set up and maintained a worm bin in the classroom, and a compost bin outdoors. They tracked the amount of waste they composted. Students started seeds indoors, and used the compost from their bins to plant their seedlings into a raised vegetable bed using a real old iron bed. "The students were excited and enthused," said Ms. McEachern. "They took the responsibility of maintaining their worm bin very seriously and were able to problem solve when challenges arose." The class received a Certificate of Recognition as "Environmental Eagles" for completing all three levels of Green Team activities. Each student received a mini-recycling bin planter with seeds as their Green Team prize.

CARVER

Teacher Michelle Littleton's after-school club at Carver High School set up a school-wide paper recycling program using bins they received from the Green Team. They learned that recycling paper saves money for the school. Students also created recycling posters and recycled inkjet cartridges as a fundraiser. "What a big difference a little effort makes," noted Ms. Littleton. "We look forward to doing even more activities next year now that the program is up and running." The class received a Certificate of Recognition as "Environmental Eagles" for completing all three levels of Green Team activities. Each student received a mini-recycling bin planter with seeds as their Green Team prize.



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DEDHAM

The sixth-eighth grade students in Lauren Cronin's Green Team at Dedham Middle School passed out recycling boxes to all the classrooms. They created signs for all the teachers listing the materials to recycle to post near their recycling box. Every week, the team collected all the materials for recycling. "The students learned job responsibility, respect for the environment and became more conscious of wasting paper," said Ms. Cronin. The class received a Certificate of Recognition as "Environmental Eagles" for completing all three levels of Green Team activities. Each student received a mini-recycling bin planter with seeds as their Green Team prize.

NEW BEDFORD

At New Bedford High School, students in Elaine Safioleas' transitional program collected the recyclables from each classroom weekly. In addition to paper, the school also recycled cardboard and cans from the cafeteria. The students tracked the amount of trash collected and wrote letters and articles about recycling. "Participation in the Green Team has benefited my students and given them information they otherwise would not have," said Ms. Safioleas. The class received a Certificate of Recognition as "Environmental Eagles" for completing all three levels of Green Team activities. The students received an interactive Earthtunes concert as their Green Team prize.

PEMBROKE

Camille Connick's Team 8-2 eighth-grade students at the Middle School wrote letters to the Board of Selectmen and Board of Health asking for support for their paper recycling program. Recycling bins were donated by the school's PTO and placed in over 50 classrooms. Students collected paper into wheeled carts provided by the Green Team, which are transported to the town recycling center. Mr. Chet Drown of the Board of Health volunteered to assist the students in transporting the paper to the recycling center.

The students tracked the weight of paper recycled during the year and used the information to calculate the amount of money saved in waste disposal costs, money earned at the recycling center, trees saved and additional pollutants removed by the trees saved. The data was used by the computer orbit and math classes and relationships were tabulated and graphed

to demonstrate the many ways the students' recycling efforts have impacted their environment.

The students estimated they recycled over 39,600 pounds of paper (19.8 tons) from the Middle School since late October 2004, which saved about 337 trees. "The students were very excited to see how a blue bin of paper in 50 classrooms amounted to 337 trees in nine months," said Ms. Connick, one of the Team 8-2 teachers. The students plan to make a presentation to the school administration, Board of Selectmen, Board of Health and community newspaper summarizing the results of their recycling efforts. Students also wrote articles and letters to the editor of the school newsletter, website and local newspapers. They created colorful recycling posters that were hung throughout the school. Using equipment from the Green Team, the students set up two worm bins. "This has been an awesome experience and we are very proud of our Middle School students," said Ms. Connick. The class received a Certificate of Recognition as "Environmental Eagles" for completing all three levels of Green Team activities. Their Green Team grand prize is a performance by Jack Golden, "Garbage is My Bag," for the entire school.

PLAINVILLE

Maggie Hoagland's sixth-grade students called the local Board of Health for a meeting to request assistance with a school recycling program. The students decided to "adopt a teacher/classroom" and provided each teacher with a decorated recycling bag and poster for the classroom. The students also set up and manned a Green Team booth for the Earth Day program at their local town park. In addition, the Green Team took a shift cleaning litter from the park. "The students really got involved in recycling and have become 'hawks' at home and around the school!" said Ms. Hoagland. The class received a Certificate of Recognition as "Environmental Eagles" for completing all three levels of Green Team activities. Each student received a mini-recycling bin planter with seeds as their Green Team prize.

WALPOLE

The first-grade class at the Fisher School in Walpole learned a lot about recycling from teacher Dorothea Uniacke when they joined the Green Team. Each snack time, the students check to see how they have reduced their waste by holding up their reused con-



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tainers. They also held a book swap, making note of how giving things they can no longer use to others can reduce waste. "The students have a greater awareness of how we throw away too much and how this is bad for our planet," said Ms. Uniacke. "They now bring in snacks with less packaging." The class received a Certificate of Recognition as "Environmental Eagles" for completing all three levels of Green Team activities. The students received a recycling magic show by Peter O'Malley as their Green Team prize.

Central Massachusetts

FITCHBURG

Linda Sordoni's first-grade students at the St. Anthony School tracked and reduced their waste, used the Green Team library materials and had a "Waste-Free Lunch Day." "We really cut back on trash," said Ms. Sordoni. "We learned why it is important to reduce, reuse and recycle." The class received a Certificate of Recognition as "Environmental Eagles" for completing all three levels of Green Team activities. Each student received a "Compost Matters" coloring book as a Green Team prize.

HOPEDALE

Students in Jane Leclaire's fourth-grade class at Hopedale Memorial School tracked and reduced their trash, created posters to promote recycling and set up a recycling program for the whole school. "We have very excited students," Ms. Leclaire said. "They recycle most everything at school. Our waste basket is usually empty, but the three recycling bins overflow." The class received a Certificate of Recognition as "Environmental Eagles" for completing all three levels of Green Team activities. The students received an interactive Earthtunes concert for the school as a Green Team prize.

LEICESTER

The Green Team of Joanne Bernier at Leicester High School wrote letters and articles and promoted recycling to the third- through fifth-grades at Memorial School. Using equipment provided by the Green Team, the group set up a school recycling program and a worm bin. They held a recycling drive and used the profits to fund their entrance fee to "Envirothon 2005." The class received a Certificate of Recognition as "Environmental Eagles" for completing all three levels of Green Team activities. Each student received a mini-recycling bin planter with seeds as a Green Team prize.

MENDON

At the Miscoe Hill School, students in Anita Cellucci's seventh-grade class researched recycling during their Library Media classes. In addition to taking the Green Team pledge, the students designed a website, made posters and powerpoint presentations and wrote skits. Ms. Cellucci reported that her students "gained extensive knowledge," and hopes to setup a school-recycling program in the future. The class received a Certificate of Recognition as "Conservation Coyotes" for completing two levels of Green Team activities. Her school received Jack Golden's presentation, "Garbage is My Bag," as a Green Team prize.

NORTHBOROUGH

Jessica Halford, Karin Christian and Sharon Foust teamed up their third-grade students at the Marion E. Zeh School. They tracked and reduced their household trash, made recycling posters for the school, and held a successful "Waste-Free Day." The posters were placed throughout the city in businesses, churches, colleges, hospitals and even town hall. "Students gained an awareness and appreciation for their role and responsibility for protecting the environment," said Ms. Christian. Each class received a Certificate of Recognition as "Environmental Eagles" for completing all three levels of Green Team activities. The school received a presentation by "garbologist" Jack Golden as a grand prize from the Green Team.

SPENCER

At the Lake Street School in Spencer, Lynn Harris' third-grade students invited the Spencer Conservation Commissioner to visit the classroom to discuss natural resources. They created recycling posters, borrowed materials from the Green Team lending library and helped set up a school-wide paper-recycling program. "Recycling is now an everyday event," said Ms. Harris. "Students became aware of just how much paper we consume in a day and hopefully, will think twice before wasting it or just throwing it in the trash." The class received a Certificate of Recognition as "Environmental Eagles" for completing all three levels of Green Team activities. Their Green Team prize was a recycling magic show by Peter O'Malley.



Western Massachusetts

AGAWAM

Tammy Rumplik's kindergarten class at the James Clark School held a school recycling drive, created recycling posters and made bunny baskets out of milk cartons. "They learned about reducing trash, reusing items and recycling," said Ms. Rumplik. The class received a Certificate of Recognition as "Environmental Eagles" for completing all three levels of Green Team activities. Each student received a "Composting Matters" coloring book as a Green Team prize.

HOLYOKE

At the First Lutheran School, Laurel Beaulieu's third-graders wrote reports and created posters promoting recycling for the Science Fair. Lisa Beluzos' seventh- and eighth-grade Green Team initiated a school recycling collection program with the City of Holyoke. The students collect recyclables throughout the building daily and the city picks them up. These students also created posters and held a waste-free lunch day. Each of these classes received a Certificate of Recognition as "Environmental Eagles" for completing all three levels of Green Team activities. Their Green Team grand prize is a performance by Jack Golden, "Garbage is My Bag," for the entire school.

NORTH ADAMS

Maureen Catelotti's second-grade Green Team created posters promoting recycling that were displayed at the local community college. They read "The Lorax" and created an alternate ending. "The class seemed to really take to the concept of the three R's and the preservation of the environment for their future," said Ms. Catelotti. The class received a Certificate of Recognition as "Environmental Eagles" for completing all three levels of Green Team activities. Each student received a "Composting Matters" coloring book as a Green Team prize.

SPRINGFIELD

At the Alice Beal Elementary School, Elana Cohen's fourth- and fifth-grade Green Team started a paper recycling program and a compost bin. The whole school pledged to participate in the recycling program. The class received a Certificate of Recognition as "Environmental Eagles" for completing all three levels of Green Team

activities. They received a recycling magic show by "edu-tainer" Peter O'Malley as a Green Team prize.

WESTFIELD

Joseph Mullett's Green Team, consisting of students from ninth through 12th grade, set up a classroom worm bin and a school recycling program. They got the whole school involved by creating recycling posters for the cafeteria and a biweekly newsletter for students and staff via website or paper copy. The students collected and emptied the recycle bins weekly after school. According to Mr. Mullett, "The results have been fantastic! The school has been extremely responsive to this program. The school is cleaner, and many students have brought this awareness home." The class received a Certificate of Recognition as "Environmental Eagles" for completing all three levels of Green Team activities. Each student received a mini-recycling bin planter with seeds as a Green Team prize.



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