

TrashMasters!™  
**SUPER**Recyclers



Elementary Division  
Brooklyn Borough  
Runner-Up

**PS 124 Silas B Dutcher**

NEW YORK CITY DEPARTMENT OF SANITATION

# 2011 GOLDEN APPLE AWARDS

This certificate is awarded with the sincere appreciation and esteem of a grateful Department and City in recognition of your school's efforts to help make New York City shine.



City of New York, Michael R. Bloomberg, Mayor  
Department of Sanitation, John J. Doherty, Commissioner  
Bureau of Waste Prevention, Reuse and Recycling, Robert Lange, Director

  
John J. Doherty, Commissioner  
June, 2011

# 2011 Golden Apple Awards Contest Entry Judging Info

(This sheet prepared for judges' use by DSNY BWPRR)



**ID Info:** 11009  
**School:** PS 124 Silas B Dutcher  
**Grade Division:** LM  
**Borough:** K

**Golden Shovel Award contestant**  
(for borough Master School Composter)

## 2011 Project Entries received for:

**School Population: total #** 324

**TrashMasters! Super Recyclers**

Received:

**Core Group:**

13

**Total Participating:**

324

The Green Team

Our school created a Green Team comprised of 3rd grade students on a mission to keep our school beautiful by reducing, reusing and recycling. They spearheaded and reinforced recycling efforts schoolwide. Check out our video at <http://blip.tv/play/AYKz3UwA>.

**TrashMasters! Reduce & Reuse Challenge**

Received:

**TrashMasters! Team Up to Clean Up**

Received:

## Prior Year Entries:

## School Contact Information:

**Phone:** 718-788-0246  
**Address:** 515 4th Avenue  
Brooklyn

11215

**Contest Coordinator:** Joanne Manna  
**Coord Phone # (if different):** 718-788-0246 x2063  
**Coordinator Email:** [jmanna@schools.nyc.gov](mailto:jmanna@schools.nyc.gov)

**Block&Lot:** 3010340001  
**DOE Location:** K124

**Principal:** Annabelle Martinez  
**Principal Email:** [amartinez4@schools.nyc.gov](mailto:amartinez4@schools.nyc.gov)

## REQUIRED for Super Recyclers only:

**Custodian:** Carmine Somma  
**Custodian's Phone:** 718-768-1119  
**Custodian's Email:** [ck124@schools.nyc.gov](mailto:ck124@schools.nyc.gov)

## Comments (may not be relevant to judging)

<http://schools.nyc.gov/SchoolPortals/15/K124/default.htm>  
<http://www.opt-osfns.org/dsf/schools/schoolpage.aspx?bldg=K124>  
[www.ps124brooklyn.com](http://www.ps124brooklyn.com)

**Info Confirmed:**



TrashMasters! Super Recyclers awards schools for implementing exemplary school recycling programs in compliance with NYC regulations.

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### Contest Overview: Show us your school's recycling program!

Winning schools demonstrate model school recycling programs that are in compliance with [NYC recycling regulations](#), and demonstrate a strong commitment from the entire school community, including principals, teachers, custodians, administrative staff, and students.

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### How to Enter

1. [Register and upload your contest entry](#) by 11:59 pm, **May 1, 2011**.

Please feel free to [contact BWPRR](#) with any questions or problems.

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Cover Page:

## ***TrashMasters! Super Recyclers contest***

Public School 124K

Silas B. Dutcher

515 Fourth Avenue

Brooklyn, New York 11215

718 788-0246 (phone)

718 965-9558 (fax)

Principal: Annabell Martinez

[Amartinez4@schools.nyc.gov](mailto:Amartinez4@schools.nyc.gov)

Contest Coordinator:

Joanne Manna, Guidance Counselor

718 788-0246 x2063

[jmanna@schools.nyc.gov](mailto:jmanna@schools.nyc.gov)

Our elementary school is located in Park Slope Brooklyn. We have 344 students PK- 5.

We are a Title 1 school and all students are eligible for free lunch.

We have a very diverse student population and we speak many languages here.

### **Contest Entry: “*The Green Team*”**

Summary: The ‘Green Team’ @ PS124 is comprised of **3<sup>rd</sup> grade students** on a *mission* to keep our school beautiful by reducing, reusing and recycling.

We initiated our recycling program at the end of the last school year. Our principal spoke with the NYC Department of Sanitation who informed her that our efforts at recycling were in need of improvement. Ms. Martinez shared this information with the school community and said that our carelessness could mean that we might be subject to a fine. When the 3<sup>rd</sup> graders heard that they said “that means that Ms. Martinez would have less money to spend on children”? The 3<sup>rd</sup> graders were determined not to let that happen!

First, I reached out to the NYC Department of Sanitation, Office of Community Affairs to train the 3<sup>rd</sup> graders on recycling. They provided a workshop in school and students were given official pins, labels and literature about school programs. Teachers in our school also use curriculum to support this learning.

Next, the children initiated a letter writing campaign to our local politicians. We needed to purchase recycling trash pails for every room in the building. They reached out to Brooklyn Borough President, Marty Markowitz and Assemblywoman, Joan Millman who paid for the entire project. We worked with our local True Value hardware store who allowed us to purchase the pails at COST. Our Principal paid for uniforms for the “Green Team” which are green t-shirts with white letters.

When the pails came in, the children got to work. They placed the labels on each and prepared to deliver them to the rooms. The next step was setting up designated recycling “centers” in each classroom.

The Green Team provided each room with 3 clearly labeled-pails-- blue for cans/bottles/juice boxes, green for paper/cardboard and black for everything else. (We collected the old trash pails, washed them and stored them in the custodian’s office for reuse)

Next, the children brainstormed and created a “script” and added props for their presentations. They decided what information they would share from their training, with their schoolmates.

They visited classrooms in groups of 5 and explained to their fellow students what the labels on the pails meant. They said that the labels would help them to remember *where* to throw trash. The “Green-Team” spoke about ways to save paper by using both sides before throwing it out and re-filling their water bottles at home. They asked teachers to appoint a classroom recycling monitor who would be responsible—especially after a party or celebration to make sure that trash goes in the right place. These monitors would also be responsible for “powering-down” the classroom at the end of the day. The “Green Team” identified public places in the building that have large recycling bins—including the hallways and the cafeteria which the students should use.

The “Green Team” spoke to their classmates about reducing at home including closing the TV, computer and lights when not in use, shutting off water when brushing your teeth and giving away old toys and clothes to other children instead of tossing them in the trash. They even brought my reusable canvas shopping bag and travel mug to classrooms to demonstrate ways that I am reusing, reducing and saving money! They ended each presentation by saying ***“Imagine the world filled with trash and no room for people... you don’t what that do you?!”***

The “Green Team” is serious about recycling. They created “ticket books, *on recycled paper*, and issue fines to teachers for classrooms that are not in compliance. They told students that the classroom fines could range from lost choice time to no recess! They keep a record of offenders in their ticket book and inform the principal of repeat lawbreakers.

Right before dismissal, the “Green Team”, *puts on their green shirts and pins*, and check classrooms for compliance. They check for computers, copiers, radios and lights that may be left on. They test faucets in the building for drips which they promptly report to me.

***Heaven forbid the “Green Team” finds trash in the wrong pail!***

The “Green Team” also made posters and banners and placed them around the school to remind students and teachers to reduce, reuse and recycle. Saving the planet and making it a better place is a major goal @PS124.

## **Our custodial staff commented: “having recycling centers in the classroom in designated areas makes trash pick-up easier”.**

Finally, the “Green-Team” wrote letters to the school custodian. As a result of their perseverance Mr. Somma changed all the bulbs in the stairwells to energy saving CFL bulbs. We started this school year with new efficient lighting on the staircases.

Even our cafeteria (Office of School Food) instituted “Tray less Tuesdays”, thereby reducing the amount of Styrofoam used.

Our Recycling Program was launched again in Sept 2010. The new 3<sup>rd</sup> grade class was trained by the NYC Department of Sanitation. We are now in full swing.

The entire school community is on board with our plan and we are working together on this venture. We are proud to say we are in a much better place in our building than we were one year ago!

For schools who want to replicate our success—follow our example. Sometimes the hardest part of a project is getting started!

**Enjoy the video!**

**Follow this link: <http://blip.tv/play/AYKz3UwA>**

**Joanne Manna  
Guidance Counselor**