

TrashMasters!™  
**SUPER**Recyclers



Elementary Division  
Brooklyn Borough  
& Citywide Winner

**PS 310K**

# 2013 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  
Department of Sanitation  
Bureau of Waste Prevention, Reuse and Recycling  
[nyc.gov/wasteless](http://nyc.gov/wasteless)

**NYC**  
recycle more,  
waste less!

# 2013 Golden Apple Awards Contest Entry Judging Info

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



**ID Info:** 13003  
**School:** PS 310 K  
**Grade Division:** LM  
**Borough:** K

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

## 2013 Project Entries received for:

**School Population: total #** 300

**Core Group:**  **Total Participating:**

22

300

### **TrashMasters! Super Recyclers**

**Received:** 4/22/2013

Learning and Recycling!

On opening the doors to their brand new school building, PS 310K decided it was imperative for their students to learn the importance of recycling beginning on the first day of school. The school equipped each classroom and common area with labeled cans for garbage and recyclables. PS 310K also took great care to make sure that students learned how to properly sort cafeteria waste. Teachers incorporated recycling into lesson plans, especially Social Studies and Science. This has been a tremendous schoolwide effort, with support and participation from teachers and students alike.

### **TrashMasters! Reduce & Reuse Challenge**

**Received:**

### **TrashMasters! Team Up to Clean Up**

**Received:**

## Prior Year Entries:

13:SR-C

## Current Prizes

13:SR-C

## School Contact Information:

**Phone:** 718 761 7670

**Address:** 942 62 St

Brooklyn

11219

**Block&Lot:** 3057290024

**DOE Location:** K310

**DOE Bldg:** K310

**Contest Coordinator:**

Maria Schierenbeck

**Principal:**

Yuqing Hong

**Sustainability Coord:**

Maria Schierenbeck

### **REQUIRED for Super Recyclers only:**

**Custodian:**

Peter Xu

**Info Confirmed:**

Printed: 6/26/2013

**P.S.310**  
**942 62<sup>nd</sup> Street**  
**Brooklyn, NY 11219**  
**Phone:(718) 491-7670**  
**Fax: (718) 491-7675**

**Principal: Yuqing Hong**  
**Phone:(718) 491-7670**  
[yhong@schools.nyc.gov](mailto:yhong@schools.nyc.gov)

**Contest Coordinator: Maria Schierenbeck**  
Teacher& Sustainability Coordinator  
[mschierenbeck@gmail.com](mailto:mschierenbeck@gmail.com)  
**Phone:(718) 491-7670**

P.S. 310 is a growing school that has only been open for three years. We currently have grades Pre-K through 3<sup>rd</sup>. We have a high population of English Language Learners.

**Borough: Brooklyn**  
**Grade: Elementary**  
**Title: Recycling and Learning!**  
**Summary:**

In September, we opened the doors to our brand new school building. As a community, we decided that it is imperative that our students learn the importance of recycling beginning on the first day of school. Each classroom is equipped with separate cans for sorting our garbage, as well as the common areas throughout the building. In our cafeteria students have learned how to empty and dispose of all containers and trays. The teachers and students support each other in this effort on a daily basis.

## **Student involvement**

**Student Participation: Core Group# 22 (3<sup>rd</sup> grade class)**  
**Student Participation: Total# 300**  
**School Population: Total # 300**

## Recycling at our School



*\*Classrooms*

### Recycling Paper and Cardboard:

- Every classroom has green container for paper and cardboard collection
- Every common space has the same cans as well.
- Each can has extra bags to ensure the garbage is kept separate at all times.



*\* School Entrance*

### **Recycling Beverage Cartons, Bottles, Cans & Foil:**

- Every classroom has a blue container for bottles, cartons, cans and foil.
- Once a week the 3<sup>rd</sup> grade students collect all bottles and cans to give to a local community member to recycle.
- Every common space has the same cans as well.
- Each can has extra bags to ensure the garbage is kept separate at all times.



\* Our 3<sup>rd</sup> graders collected bottles to recycle!

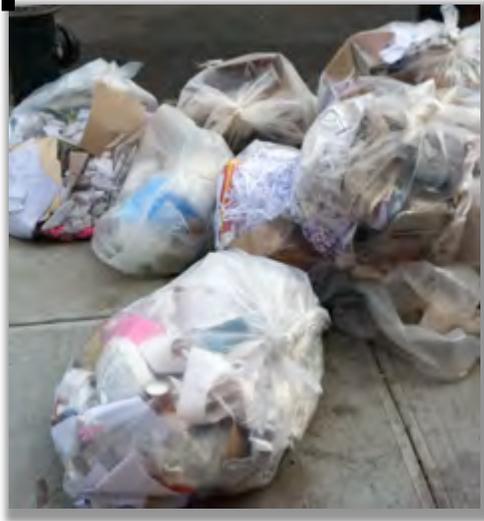
## Recycling Beverage Cartons, Bottles, Cans & Foil continued..

- Our cafeteria has 2 set locations for the students to separate their garbage during lunchtime. Each can is labeled with diagrams.



### **Recycling Collection and Setout:**

Each classrooms garbage and recycling is collected daily by our two custodians. It is placed on the curbside for DSNY to pick up. We are on a school truck route.



### **Program Implementation:**

**Before and After:** Before moving into our new school building, we were sharing a building with another school. We aided in the recycling efforts there, but were unable to do all of the projects and initiatives that we are doing now.

Now that we are in our own building, we are able to organize and go forth with all of our recycling plans. Overall, the students, staff and parents are fully aware and participating in our recycling initiatives.

#### **Project Planning:** Our Objectives:

1. Start our school with a cohesive, fully committed recycling program that will be sustainable for years to come.
2. Have our students involved in the programs and participate in all school wide events.
3. Teach our students to treat our school community, as well as the community they live in correctly and make the right choices about keeping it clean.

Being from NYC and a public school teacher, I am fully aware of the recycling programs throughout New York. I feel it is necessary to teach our students at a young age, the correct way to recycle and treat their community. Luckily, our school has many teachers and staff members that feel the same way. As a whole, we decided that the school should be recycling each and every day, no matter where they are in the building. We have organized school wide events such as, a recycled Earth Day project. For the project, each class created a poster or 3-D sculpture etc. with recycled materials they had collected from their community. We also have planned a night in honor of Earth Day, in which the parents will join us to learn more about recycling. We will also have a guest speaker.

**Students Involvement:** Our students have been involved in every step of this process. In the beginning of the school year the students aided in giving each classroom the correct bins for garbage and recycling collection. Our third grade students help collect our empty, unused water bottles and cans each week, so we can give them to a man in the community to recycle. We have also had a school wide project using only recycled materials in honor of Earth Day. We plan to eventually have a student team to meet each week, but we are waiting until our school grows a little bit more. Right now our oldest students are in 3<sup>rd</sup> grade.

**Promotion:** Every month our school has a grade newsletter. In those newsletters there is always an important message about recycling. We also have recycling posters hung throughout the school promoting and showing the students, parents and staff what are the events that are coming up as well as how to recycle.

**Collaboration:** Currently we are working with a company called Funding Factory. Funding Factory recycles small electronics, used ink cartridges and toners. For each item we recycle our school earns money for books, trips and materials. Our students, parents and staff members have been donating old electronics and items they do not want, to help our school earn money.

**Educational Components:** To aid in teaching our students about recycling, we have incorporated the subject matter mainly into Science and Social Studies. These subjects have units and lessons that are aligned to the common core and teach our students about their community and recycling. We have also incorporated our recycling

program into writing. Students have created persuasive posters informing people to recycling and giving them reasons why they should recycle.



\*1<sup>st</sup> grade Recycling project: Jobs in our community



\* 2<sup>nd</sup> grade Persuasive Writing Posters

## **Project Analysis:**

**What worked?** Our recycling plans and projects have overall been very successful. Every classroom is recycling, all of the staff members participate and are willing to do more, and our parents are interested and teaching it at home as well. Our cafeteria is equipped with the proper cans for recycling. We have initiated school wide projects that used recycling materials. Overall, I think our school is on the right track to continue recycling.

**What didn't work?** At first, it was hard for the younger students to understand the different bins and what they were for. We would often find them getting confused with what went in the blue and green bins. It wasn't until we received the stickers for the garbage cans from DSNY to label each can. The visual aids helped them associate the colors of the bin and what it is for.

**Applicability to other schools:** The advice I would give to another school that has only early childhood grades is to use a lot of visuals. Visual aids help them see what you are talking about. Due to the lack of vocabulary many students do not know all of the recycling terms etc. Take the time to explain and hang the posters/ stickers throughout the building. Also, get the parents involved! Ask them to talk about recycling at home. Sending home monthly messages with tips is often a great reminder.

**Measuring Success:** I measured the success of the projects we have done so far, by the feedback I receive from the students and my fellow co-workers and the overall appearance of our school. The students are constantly coming to me to tell me all about how they sorted their recyclables at home, or how they shared what they have learned with someone new. Our school is also very, very clean. Our students know that there is always a garbage can, or recycling bin to throw their garbage in, the floor is not a garbage can! Due to this, there is rarely any debris or garbage around our school.

**Future plans:** If our school was to win the prize of Trash Masters, it would help fund our school garden. We are trying to earn and save money to build a garden outside of our school. We would like to also buy compost containers and bins to begin composting for our garden.

SCHOOL: PS 310 K (LOCN CODE: K310, BLDG CODE: K310)  
 PRINCIPAL: Yuqing Hong  
 CUSTODIAN: Peter Xu  
 SUSTAINABILITY COORDINATOR: Maria Schierenbeck  
 DATE(S) OF ASSESSMENT: May 21, 2013

14 Locations were assessed.

**SCORES by Recycling Compliance Category & Material Type**

	OVERALL	MIXED PAPER & CORRUGATED CARDBOARD	BEVERAGE CARTONS, BOTTLES, CANS, METAL & FOIL
COLLECTION CONTAINERS	Fair	Good	Fair
AREAS/SIGNAGE	Poor	Poor	Fair
PROPER USE	Good	Good	Good
SOURCE SEPARATION (at internal collection)	Good	Good	Fair
STREAMS KEPT SEPARATE	Good	Good	Good
DUMPSTERS	n/a	n/a	n/a
SOURCE SEPARATION (at storage and setout)	Good	Good	Fair
SETOUT AMOUNT	n/a	n/a	n/a

**Score Descriptions**

**COLLECTION CONTAINERS:** This is the score for the presence and proper set-up of recycling containers. It documents the opportunity for students and staff to source separate of recyclable materials from trash.

**AREAS/SIGNAGE:** This is the score for the presence of signage instructing people what and where to recycle for each material type. It documents efforts to educate students and staff about the recycling program.

**PROPER USE:** Where containers exist, this is the score for whether they are used properly (whether the correct materials are put into the proper bins.)

**SOURCE SEPARATION - INTERNAL:** This is the score for the extent to which proper source separation is taking place internally, where opportunities for source separation currently exist.

**STREAMS KEPT SEPARATE:** This is the score for how well the streams of materials are kept separate in storage and for setout.

**DUMPSTERS:** This is the score for the labeling and maintenance of the dumpsters, if dumpsters are used.

**SOURCE SEPARATION - STORAGE/SETOUT:** This is the score for the extent to which proper source separation was observed in storage, and at setout.

**SETOUT AMOUNT:** We do not score setout, because observations can be so variable depending on the day and time of observation. (This is ultimately the most telling observation if it can be made on a regular basis.)

## SCORES by Location

LOCATION	OVERALL SCORE	REQUIRED RECYCLING	RECOMMENDATIONS
Classroom 1: Room 2-405	Good	mixed paper & cardboard	You have adequately set-up recycling bin(s) for mixed paper & cardboard in this location. Check your bin(s) regularly and refresh labels as needed. You have appropriate signage posted about where and how to recycle mixed paper & cardboard. Check your signs regularly and refresh as needed. It appears your students and staff are correctly using the recycling bin(s) for mixed paper & cardboard. Check bin(s) for contamination and provide regular reminders. It appears that your students and staff are not putting recyclables into the trash bin(s). Check bin(s) for contamination and provide regular reminders.
Classroom 2: Room 412	Good	mixed paper & cardboard	You have adequately set-up recycling bin(s) for mixed paper & cardboard in this location. Check your bin(s) regularly and refresh labels as needed. This location had inadequate signage instructing students and staff where and how to recycle mixed paper & cardboard. Post recycling information about where and how to recycle mixed paper & cardboard. Check your signs regularly and refresh as needed. It appears your students and staff are correctly using the recycling bin(s) for mixed paper & cardboard. Check bin(s) for contamination and provide regular reminders. It appears that your students and staff are not putting recyclables into the trash bin(s). Check bin(s) for contamination and provide regular reminders.
Classroom 3: Room 2-402	Good	mixed paper & cardboard	This location had no recycling bin(s) for mixed paper & cardboard or they were inadequately set-up. Place an adequate number of recycling bin(s) for mixed paper & cardboard in this location. Label every recycling bin with decals that explain through words and/or pictures what should go into that bin. If you line your bin(s) for mixed paper & cardboard with bags, use clear plastic. Pair recycling bin(s) with trash bin(s). Check your bin(s) regularly and refresh labels as needed. This location had inadequate signage instructing students and staff where and how to recycle mixed paper & cardboard. Post recycling information about where and how to recycle mixed paper & cardboard. Check your signs regularly and refresh as needed. It appears your students and staff are correctly using the recycling bin(s) for mixed paper & cardboard. Check bin(s) for contamination and provide regular reminders. It appears that your students and staff are not putting recyclables into the trash bin(s). Check bin(s) for contamination and provide regular reminders.
Office, Other 1: Room 404	Good	mixed paper & cardboard	You have adequately set-up recycling bin(s) for mixed paper & cardboard in this location. Check your bin(s) regularly and refresh labels as needed. This location had inadequate signage instructing students and staff where and how to recycle mixed paper & cardboard. Post recycling information about where and how to recycle mixed paper & cardboard. Check your signs regularly and refresh as needed. It appears your students and staff are correctly using the recycling bin(s) for mixed paper & cardboard. Check bin(s) for contamination and provide regular reminders. It appears that your students and staff are not putting recyclables into the trash bin(s). Check bin(s) for contamination and provide regular reminders.
Office, Other 2: Room 207	Good	mixed paper & cardboard	You have adequately set-up recycling bin(s) for mixed paper & cardboard in this location. Check your bin(s) regularly and refresh labels as needed. This location had inadequate signage instructing students and staff where and how to recycle mixed paper & cardboard. Post recycling information about where and how to recycle mixed paper & cardboard. Check your signs regularly and refresh as needed. It appears your students and staff are correctly using the recycling bin(s) for mixed paper & cardboard. Check bin(s) for contamination and provide regular reminders. It appears that your students and staff are not putting recyclables into the trash bin(s). Check bin(s) for contamination and provide regular reminders.
Library	Fair	mixed paper & cardboard	This location had no recycling bin(s) for mixed paper & cardboard or they were inadequately set-up. Place an adequate number of recycling bin(s) for mixed paper & cardboard in this location. Label every recycling bin with decals that explain through words and/or pictures what should go into that bin. If you line your bin(s) for mixed paper & cardboard with bags, use clear plastic. Pair recycling bin(s) with trash bin(s). Check your bin(s) regularly and refresh labels as needed. This location had inadequate signage instructing students and staff where and how to recycle mixed paper & cardboard. Post recycling information about where and how to recycle mixed paper & cardboard. Check your signs regularly and refresh as needed.
Auditorium: Shared with gymnasium	n/a	mixed paper & cardboard	This location was either not present in the school or was not able to be observed.
Cafeteria	Good	beverage cartons, bottles, cans, metal & foil	You have adequately set-up recycling bin(s) for metal, glass, plastic & cartons in this location. Check your bin(s) regularly and refresh labels as needed. You have appropriate signage posted about where and how to recycle metal, glass, plastic & cartons. Check your signs regularly and refresh as needed.

## SCORES by Location

LOCATION	OVERALL SCORE	REQUIRED RECYCLING	RECOMMENDATIONS
Kitchen	Good	corrugated cardboard, and beverage cartons, bottles, cans, metal & foil	This location had no recycling bin(s) for metal, glass, plastic & cartons, or they were inadequately set-up. Place an adequate number of recycling bin(s) for metal, glass, plastic & cartons in this location. Label every recycling bin with decals that explain through words and/or pictures what should go into that bin. Line all bin(s) for metal, glass, plastic & cartons with clear plastic bags. Pair recycling bin(s) with trash bin(s). Check your bin(s) regularly and refresh labels as needed. This location had inadequate signage instructing staff where and how to recycle corrugated cardboard, and where and how to recycle metal, glass, plastic & cartons. Post recycling information about where and how to recycle metal, glass, plastic & cartons. Post a sign indicating the designated area for cardboard. Check your signs regularly and refresh as needed. It appears your students and staff are correctly using the recycling bin(s) for mixed paper & cardboard and for metal, glass, plastic & cartons. Check bin(s) for contamination and provide regular reminders. It appears that your students and staff are not putting recyclables into the trash bin(s). Check bin(s) for contamination and provide regular reminders.
Office, Main: Room 113	Good	mixed paper & cardboard, and beverage cartons, bottles, cans, metal & foil	This location had no recycling bin(s) for mixed paper & cardboard nor for metal, glass, plastic & cartons, or they were inadequately set-up. Place an adequate number of recycling bin(s) for mixed paper & cardboard, and for metal, glass, plastic & cartons in this location. Label every recycling bin with decals that explain through words and/or pictures what should go into that bin. Line all bin(s) for metal, glass, plastic & cartons with clear plastic bags. If you line your bin(s) for mixed paper & cardboard with bags, use clear plastic. Pair recycling bin(s) with trash bin(s). Check your bin(s) regularly and refresh labels as needed. This location had inadequate signage instructing students and staff where and how to recycle mixed paper & cardboard. Post recycling information about where and how to recycle mixed paper & cardboard and where and how to recycle metal, glass, plastic & cartons. Check your signs regularly and refresh as needed. The recycling bin(s) for mixed paper & cardboard and for metal, glass, plastic & cartons were contaminated with the wrong materials. Instruct students and staff what should and should not go into the recycling bin(s) for mixed paper & cardboard and for metal, glass, plastic & cartons. Check bin(s) for contamination and provide regular reminders. It appears that your students and staff are not putting recyclables into the trash bin(s). Check bin(s) for contamination and provide regular reminders.
Entrance/Lobby	Fair	mixed paper & cardboard, and beverage cartons, bottles, cans, metal & foil	This location had no recycling bin(s) for mixed paper & cardboard nor for metal, glass, plastic & cartons, or they were inadequately set-up. Place an adequate number of recycling bin(s) for mixed paper & cardboard, and for metal, glass, plastic & cartons in this location. Label every recycling bin with decals that explain through words and/or pictures what should go into that bin. Line all bin(s) for metal, glass, plastic & cartons with clear plastic bags. If you line your bin(s) for mixed paper & cardboard with bags, use clear plastic. Pair recycling bin(s) with trash bin(s). Check your bin(s) regularly and refresh labels as needed. This location had inadequate signage instructing students and staff where and how to recycle mixed paper & cardboard. Post recycling information about where and how to recycle mixed paper & cardboard and where and how to recycle metal, glass, plastic & cartons. Check your signs regularly and refresh as needed. The recycling bin(s) for mixed paper & cardboard and for metal, glass, plastic & cartons were contaminated with the wrong materials. Instruct students and staff what should and should not go into the recycling bin(s) for mixed paper & cardboard and for metal, glass, plastic & cartons. Check bin(s) for contamination and provide regular reminders. The trash bin(s) were contaminated with recyclable materials. Instruct students and staff where to recycle mixed paper & cardboard, and metal, glass, plastic & cartons. Check bin(s) for contamination and provide regular reminders.
Teacher Lounge	Fair	mixed paper & cardboard, and beverage cartons, bottles, cans, metal & foil	This location had no recycling bin(s) for mixed paper & cardboard nor for metal, glass, plastic & cartons, or they were inadequately set-up. Place an adequate number of recycling bin(s) for mixed paper & cardboard, and for metal, glass, plastic & cartons in this location. Label every recycling bin with decals that explain through words and/or pictures what should go into that bin. Line all bin(s) for metal, glass, plastic & cartons with clear plastic bags. If you line your bin(s) for mixed paper & cardboard with bags, use clear plastic. Pair recycling bin(s) with trash bin(s). Check your bin(s) regularly and refresh labels as needed. It appears that your students and staff are not putting recyclables into the trash bin(s). Check bin(s) for contamination and provide regular reminders.
Gymnasium	Poor	mixed paper & cardboard, and beverage cartons, bottles, cans, metal & foil	This location had no recycling bin(s) for mixed paper & cardboard nor for metal, glass, plastic & cartons, or they were inadequately set-up. Place an adequate number of recycling bin(s) for mixed paper & cardboard, and for metal, glass, plastic & cartons in this location. Label every recycling bin with decals that explain through words and/or pictures what should go into that bin. Line all bin(s) for metal, glass, plastic & cartons with clear plastic bags. If you line your bin(s) for mixed paper & cardboard with bags, use clear plastic. Pair recycling bin(s) with trash bin(s). Check your bin(s) regularly and refresh labels as needed.

## SCORES by Location

LOCATION	OVERALL SCORE	REQUIRED RECYCLING	RECOMMENDATIONS
Hallway	Poor	mixed paper & cardboard, and beverage cartons, bottles, cans, metal & foil	This location had no recycling bin(s) for mixed paper & cardboard nor for metal, glass, plastic & cartons, or they were inadequately set-up. Place an adequate number of recycling bin(s) for mixed paper & cardboard, and for metal, glass, plastic & cartons in this location. Label every recycling bin with decals that explain through words and/or pictures what should go into that bin. Line all bin(s) for metal, glass, plastic & cartons with clear plastic bags. If you line your bin(s) for mixed paper & cardboard with bags, use clear plastic. Pair recycling bin(s) with trash bin(s). Check your bin(s) regularly and refresh labels as needed.
Storage Area: Refrigerated storage room	Good		It appears you are keeping bags of paper and cardboard clearly separate from bags of metal, glass, plastic & cartons, and clearly separate from the regular trash. This is essential to help the people who collect your recyclables and trash know which is which. Remember to only set out recyclables on designated recycling collection days, otherwise they will be collected as trash. Confirm your recycling collection day with DSNY. Bags of recyclables were contaminated with trash. Instruct staff to keep recyclable materials in separate bags from trash for collection. Check bags for contamination and provide regular reminders. It appears that your recyclables are being kept separate from trash for collection. Check bags for contamination and provide regular reminders.
Setout (Bags): On 62 St, Tuesday- MGP and garbage	Good		Bags of recyclables were not kept clearly separate from bags of trash. In storage and when set out at the curb, keep bags of paper and cardboard clearly separate from bags of metal, glass, plastic & cartons, and clearly separate from the regular trash. This is essential to help the people who collect your recyclables and trash know which is which. Remember to only set out recyclables on designated recycling collection days, otherwise they will be collected as trash. Confirm your recycling collection day with DSNY.
Dumpsters / Compactors	n/a		This location was either not present in the school or was not able to be observed.