

TrashMasters!™
SUPERRecyclers



Elementary Division
Manhattan Borough
Winner

PS 6
Lillie D Blake

2014 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/recycle



2014 Golden Apple Awards Contest Entry Judging Info

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



ID Info: 14007
School: PS 6 Lillie D Blake
Grade Division: LM
Borough: M

Golden Shovel Award contestant
(for borough Master School Composter)

2014 Project Entries received for:

School Population: total # 747
Core Group: 66
Total Participating: 747

TrashMasters! Super Recyclers

PS6 Green Star Awards

Received: 5/2/2014

In just a few months, PS 6 transformed their entire recycling program by installing a coordinated three-bin system in their common areas, offices, classrooms, and kitchen. Keeping waste sorting areas consistent throughout the entire school and adding labels to all bins helped students to properly sort their trash and recyclables. After a kick-off recycling assembly in the winter, PS 6 instituted their Green Star Award program, dreamed up at a Children's Environmental Literacy Foundation (CELFL) workshop, to reward classrooms that are doing it right. The school's newly established Green Team created surveys for teachers to track progress, created a recycling video, and ran a recycling update staff meeting. The Ecokids lunch club collects liquids and sometimes food waste in the cafeteria for on-site composting.

TrashMasters! Reduce & Reuse Challenge

Received:

TrashMasters! Team Up to Clean Up

Received:

Prior Year Entries:

first entry

Current Prizes

14:SR-boro

School Contact Information:

Phone: 212.737.9774 x1310
Address: 45 EAST 81 ST
NEW YORK 10028
Block&Lot: 1014930021
DOE Location: M006
DOE Bldg: M006

Contest Coordinator: Allison Godshall

Principal: Lauren Fontana

Sustainability Coord: Allison Godshall

REQUIRED for Super Recyclers only:

Custodian: Suzanne Bicknell

Info Confirmed: 6/10/2014

Printed: 6/18/2014

Super Recyclers Contest Entry Questions – PS6

School Information:

School Number	M006, PS6
Official School Name/School also Known As:	Lillie D. Blake School
Street Address, City, Zip	45 East 81 st Street, New York, NY 10028
Phone #, Fax #	212.737.9774, (f) 212.722.8669
Principal: Name, Phone, Email	Lauren Fontana, 212.737.9774 x1310, lfontana@schools.nyc.gov
Contest Coordinator: Name, Title, Phone, Email	Allison Godshall, Science Teacher, 212.737.9774 x4581 agodshallrock@hotmail.com
School Description – other relevant information should be known about our community – size, location, population, special missions	Our school is committed to lessening our impact on the environment. With the establishment of our school’s green team and the formal placement of ecokids lunch clubs in the teacher’s schedule, we’ve begun to systematically tackle classroom/office recycling at our school hand in hand with students. Cafeteria recycling is currently in the works with an energy focus slated for next year.

Contest Entry Information

Borough	Manhattan
Grade Division	Elementary (K-5)
Contest Entry Title	PS6 Super Recyclers
Contest Entry Summary	We are Super Recyclers because in just a few months, we’ve transformed the look of the entire waste collection stream at PS6. After a kick-off recycling assembly in the winter, we’re supporting the school efforts with our Green Star Award program to reward classrooms that are doing it right!

Student Involvement

Student Participation: Core Group# ____	66
Student Participation: Total # ____	747
School Population: Total # ____	747

Recycling at Our School:

We wanted to create a system at the school, that no matter where you were, you would find the same set of disposal options when dealing with waste. Therefore, we established a 3 bin system after the Dept. of Sanitation structure. We have a green bin for paper, blue for plastic/metal/glass/cartons and a brown/black bin for trash throughout the building.

Recycling Paper and Cardboard in:

Common Areas (hallway – set up is like this on every floor):



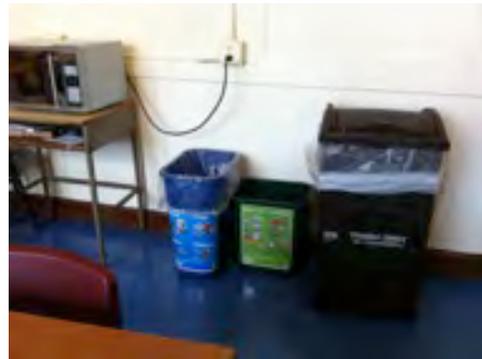
Common Area (rotunda – main entrance):



Offices:



Teacher's Lounge:



Kitchen (bag for cans and one for paper):



Classrooms (Science Classroom):



Recycling at Our School

We have a green bin for paper, blue for plastic/metal/glass/cartons and a brown/black bin for trash throughout the building. In the cafeteria, we have a liquids collection container as well. Occasionally, we collect compostables for on site composting but are not yet an organics school.

Recycling Metal, Glass, Plastic and Cartons in our:

Offices (Main Office – 3 cans each labeled):



All Classrooms:



Cafeteria (kids pouring into liquid bucket):



Teacher's Lounge:



Kitchen (bag each for cans... and paper):



Common Areas (Library):



Recycling at Our School

Recycling Collection and Setout

Briefly describe and include photos showing how your school collects the separated recyclables throughout the building, including storage and setout for DSNY collection. *Note: Recyclables must be moved through the building by custodial staff, not by students.*

Classroom Collection (bag on side is for blue can Items)



Collection of Three bins into three cans/bags:



Movement of Bags to Stairwells:



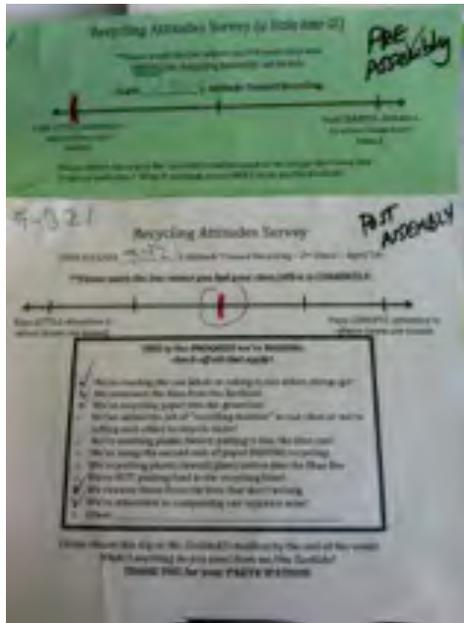
Sidewalk Disposal:



Storage of Recycling:



Surveys given by students/Green Team to assess PROGRESS being made with school recycling



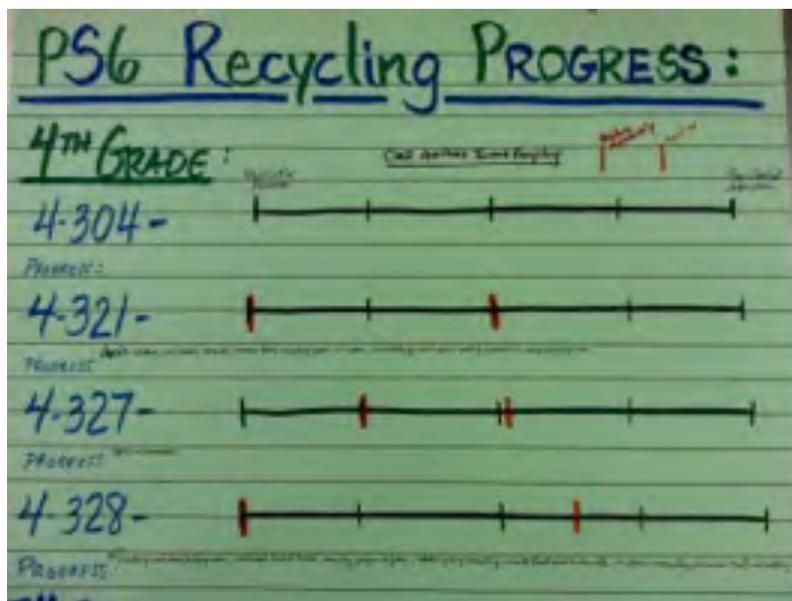
Apologies – in the compression of these photos – we’ve lost resolution but we couldn’t fix it and keep it under 3MB ☹️

The green slip of paper was a quick survey to teachers inquiring about their class’ attitude toward recycling PRE – recycling assembly. The red line indicates “pays little attention to where waste is thrown” In the second survey – white sheet – they are again asked to indicate their class’ attitude toward recycling (note movement to right = pays careful attention to where items are tossed).

Teachers were also able to mark areas of progress in the box below the graph, i.e., creating job of classroom recycling monitor, reading EcoKid data, reading can labels, etc.

Summary Table of Grade 4 Recycling Progress:

Red line indicates Class Attitude toward recycling pre-recycling assembly and orange mark indicates current attitude. Progress notes indicate items marked in second survey.



Project planning. *Your objectives, and the planning and organization that drove this project.*
The objective of our program was to streamline the recycling program at PS6 –

- to make our waste disposal set up look the same throughout the building (matches how it looks on streets of NYC and many cultural institutions)
- to reward classrooms/students/staff for making progress in recycling via our Green Star Program (dreamed up at a Children’s Environmental Literacy Foundation workshop in the Spring of ’13)
- via student efforts in the EcoKids Lunch Clubs (K-5)
- via student/staff/parent efforts of the Green Team

Student involvement. *All student efforts to plan and implement your school recycling program. Include activities conducted by classrooms, cluster, grade, school wide, team, club, or afterschool program.*

- October 2014 – Combined K/1, 2/3 and 4/5 EcoKids Lunch Clubs Form (approximately 30 students total) – meeting once a week ½ hour each. Advertised goal of the Lunch Club was “recycling.”
- Students in the 4/5 Club desired to create a recycling video so this was their primary focus. They followed the following timeline Oct. to Feb.:
 - Determined focus of video, brainstormed ideas, broke into groups for different segments of the video, drafted script, acted out scenes, edited over Feb. break.
- Students in the K/1 and 2/3 clubs worked steadfastly to
OCTOBER: Survey the classrooms/offices/main areas for green recycling bin needs - an order for necessary bins was placed
 - 2/3 students surveyed their teachers to determine recycling interests (as well as composting in classrooms)
 - After attending an Advanced Sustainability Coordinators meeting in the Fall, all new DSNY recycling bin labels were ordered to support city’s new planNOVEMBER:
 - Students put new paper recycling labels on newly arrived green bins.
 - Students distributed properly labeled green bins to all classrooms & offices.DECEMBER:
 - Students worked on creating green stars in anticipation of our Spring kick off. 2/3 students used green glitter glue to write RECYCLING on the green star and K/1 students added bright star stickers to brighten them up.JANUARY:
 - Students removed old green stickers from blue bins in classrooms and affixed a new blue label to the blue bins – establishing plastics, et al. collection in classrooms
 - Students prepare DSNY media (coloring books, comics, bookmarks, etc for distribution soon)
 - Students ran a recycling update at a staff meeting to get teachers up to speed on new program. Custodial crew attended the meeting as well.FEBRUARY:
 - New Crew of EcoKids for K/1, 2/3 starts now. 4/5 stuck around a bit longer to finish video in time for our RECYCLING ASSEMBLY hosted by the school’s GREEN TEAM.

- EcoKids were participants in the assembly where a GROWN NYC Guest hosted.
- Initial Survey is given to classroom teachers to assess the attitude about recycling of their class

MARCH:

- Students return to classrooms for final check and to attach “trash only” stickers to the brown/black bins
- Final order placed for blue/green bins to finish rooms as well as hallways
- Green Stars continue to be created
- Students visit classrooms for “practice run” of assessing bins for “green star” designation. Data collected is shared with classrooms along with suggestion from EcoKids for improvement
- Students assist in application of Super Recyclers grant

APRIL-JUNE:

- Students helped maintain the building checklist of who needs what until we finally checked off them all and passed off extra bins to the Head Custodian
- 2nd Survey is given to classroom teacher to assess class attitude toward recycling with opportunity to check off “progress” noted. This along with EcoKid data collection will contribute to whether class gets a green star or not.
- Students visit classroom for bin evaluation, data collected again (and recorded before returning to teacher), green star awarded and reason provided.
- Students assist in application of Super Recyclers grant

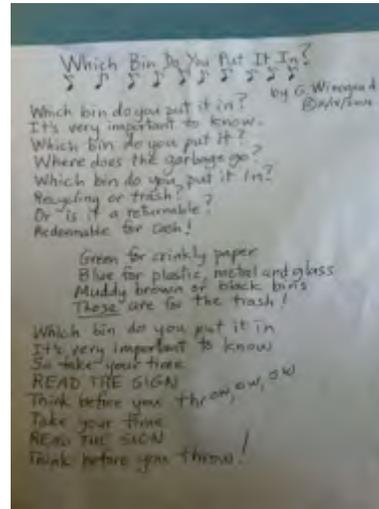
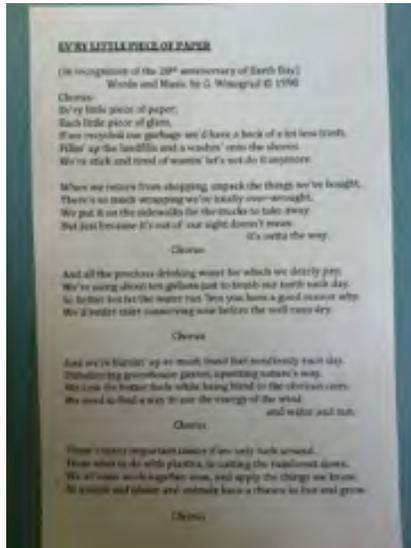
Promotion. *Efforts to promote this program, such as announcements, memos, flyers, posters, letters, web pages, skits, songs, assembly programs, media coverage, or other special events.*

- Enotes to PS6 Community
- Newspaper Article
- Songs (below)
- Recycling Assembly
- Green Team Support
- Coloring Flyer (below)
- Recycled Art Activity via Barely Any Trash Day (done in Mid May) – entire school via art teacher and science teacher
- Parent support of Cafeteria recycling & EcoKid compost collection – May 6th week
- Announcements to encourage/celebrate Green Star Classrooms

Color-Me - Flyer created by Music Teacher to support New Recycling Efforts – given out to all kids grade K – 5 along with song training (following page):



Two songs created by Music Teacher to support recycling program shared at assembly and in followup classes to entire school through the Spring.



Collaboration. Any corroboration with other schools, professionals, businesses, or community organizations on this project. Did you solicit donations or help?

- Recycling Assessment - School walkthrough – GrowNYC - Robert Lock
- Recycling assembly: **GrowNYC** – Laura Piraino
- **DSNY** – free materials, asked questions about more signage, what to recycle, used signs on cans and in classrooms, gave out bookmarks, comic books, coloring books, refrigerator stickers to inspire participation and reward Green Star Classrooms
- **Children’s Environmental Literacy Foundation** – provided workshop on Sustainability Education integration into classes – our Green Star Program came out of this
- We reached out to these schools for support on recycling and waste reduction:
 - STOP bags- Joan Wolf at **The Hewitt School**
 - Pam French from **greenschoolsny.com**

Educational components: Learning Standards met, lessons, student work:

K-8 Science Scope and Sequence:

Inquiry Skills:

Observing – becoming aware of an object or event by using any of the senses to identify properties

Gathering and organizing data – collecting information about objects and events which illustrate a specific situation

Generalizing – drawing general conclusions from particulars

Interpreting Data – analyzing data that have been obtained and organized by determining apparent patterns or relationships in the data

Making Decisions – identifying alternatives and choosing a course of action from among the alternatives after basing the judgment for the selection on justifiable reasons

Process Skills:

Observe, analyze and report observations of objects and events

Observe, identify and communicate patterns

Observe, identify and communicate cause-and-effect relationships

Generate appropriate questions in response to observations, events and other experiences

Observe, collect, organize and appropriately graph data, then accurately interpret results

Common CORE Standards:

Writing Standards – K-5:

Participate in shared research and writing projects (... record science observations)

Speaking and Listening Standards K-5:

Report on a topic or text or present an opinion, sequencing ideas logically and using appropriate facts and relevant, descriptive details to support main ideas or themes; speak clearly at an understandable pace

Mathematics:

Measurement and Data; describe and compare measureable attributes, classify objects and count the number of objects in categories (K), represent and interpret data (Gr 2 & 3)

Education for Sustainability:

We're compiling texts to add to classroom libraries to build recycling literacy across the school (more to come). For example:

Let's Recycle! by Anne L. Mackenzie

Recycled! by Jillian Powell

Let's Reuse! by Sara E. Nelson

Recycle! A Handbook For Kids by Gail Gibbons

Drip! Drop! How Water Gets To Your Tap by Barbara Seuling

Bottle Houses: The Creative World of Grandma Priscilla by Melissa Eskridge Slaymaker

Where Does the Garbage Go? by Paul Showers

Students co-wrote the surveys pictured earlier and they wrote the assessments for each class. We worked together to compile the data and had conversations about who gets a green star and why (data analysis). We built the graphs together and analyzed them. This was done in a Lunch Club format and there are no formal lessons written but hopefully, they are apparent in the materials set forth. Some photos are included below of the students at work. An iMovie recycling at PS6 video is available to share with you as well.

4th-5th Grade Students Plan for and Create a “Recycling at PS6” iMovie – presented at our recycling assembly:



Students prepare Green Stars for our recycling reward program – as well as DSNY materials to give out as prizes.



Students prepare the new (and old) cans with the updated DSNY recycling information



Project Analysis. Briefly describe and document:

What worked? What were the most successful aspects of this project?

- Unintended benefits of sharing the data we collected with the classes. Teachers' remarked the most about this – they shared the can findings (data) with their class and they said they noticed INSTANT changes in what was in the cans. It's not perfect but we're improving!
- Having the same system throughout the entire building has been instrumental in sending the same message no matter where you are.
- EcoKids are really running the show – it's great to see them so vested in making this work (or at least seeing progress!)

What didn't work? What were the least successful aspects of this project?

- Connection with our 4th-5th grade teachers – they did not return surveys and students in the EcoKids 4/5 club expressed great frustration with their peers' attitudes toward recycling. We had to go to each one to collect the data from them personally. They requested special training for their kids – feeling like they're trying and the kids aren't getting it. We're working on that.
- Teachers feeling like the items weren't being recycled after pick up from their rooms. Contamination of bins is a struggle.

Applicability to other schools. What advice would you give to other schools with similar populations who want to replicate your project?

- Build in meeting times with students to staff schedules if you expect them to be fully vested/available for the work. We only met ½ an hour a week but it was enough. It was built in to the schedule and students knew they were expected to be at the meetings and get work done!
- Involve all constituencies in planning/implementation process.

Measuring success. Describe how you measured the success of your project. Explain any impact on the students or community.

- Anecdotal sharing by teachers to EcoKids/Sustainability Coordinator/Green Team
- The use of the new green bins (for paper!)
- Survey Data re: class attitudes re: recycling
- More discussion in the community about where waste should go
- Classroom Teacher Feedback
- Custodial Feedback on pick up and set out – changes they notice – reduction in useful materials going to waste – will need to keep monitoring

Future plans. How would these prize funds be used to further enhance your school recycling program, waste prevention initiatives, or beautification projects?

- We wish to have dumpsters that can contain the recycling materials – we have to hold them for a one day a week pick up and that's so much recycling! We have only one fully functioning dumpster out of 3. We're unsure of the cost but know we don't have the money for it.
We'd love to have cans for the custodians and for the cafeteria that match the rest of the school so that we are completely consistent in our system. For this, we'd need about 8, 55 gal collection cans.
- We want to collect more compostables too and in classrooms of interested teachers/students. We have 13 interested classrooms already. We need to purchase the classroom compost bins and they are about \$30 each.
- We'd love to have a student calendar design contest with each month showcasing a new image re: recycling at PS6. We'd like to make these calendars in color for all the classrooms and have them bound.
- Student Designed PS6 Recycling T-shirts for members of the EcoKids Lunch Clubs and perhaps for prizes to Green Star Classrooms that get the award for a number of months!