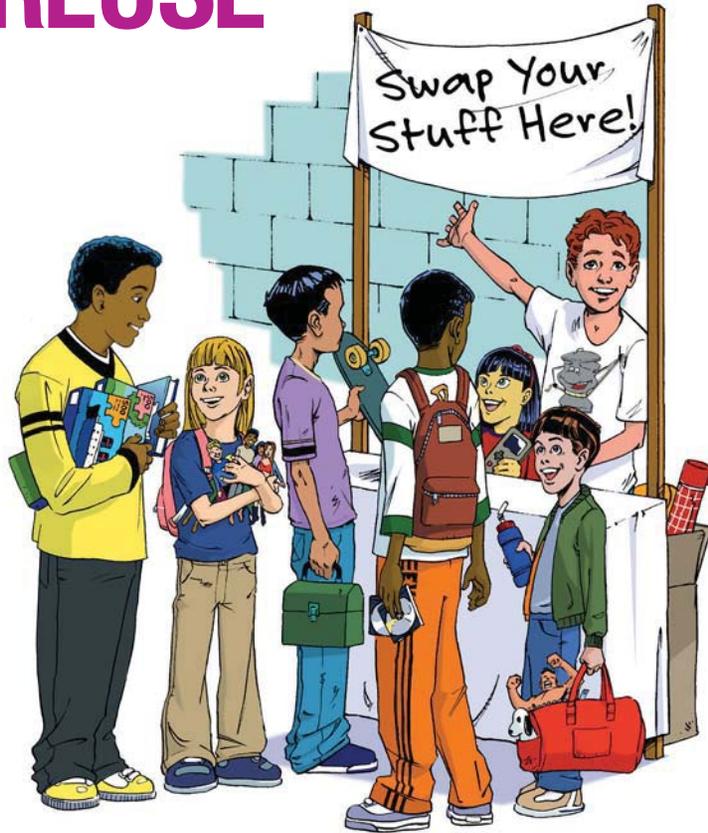


# REDUCE & REUSE



Queens Borough  
Winner  
Intermediate Division

IS 125  
Thom J McCann  
Woodside

# 2015 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 Recycling and Sustainability  
[nyc.gov/recycle](http://nyc.gov/recycle)



# 2015 Golden Apple Awards Contest Entry Judging Info

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



**ID Info:** 15006  
**School:** IS 125 Thom J McCann Woodside  
**Grade Division:** IS  
**Borough:** Q  
**Affiliation:** DOE

(for borough Master School Composter)

**Cash Prize:** \$5,000  
**Reduce & Reuse Award:** Borough Winner

**Golden Shovel Award**

## Reduce & Reuse project entry

### Bottle Cap Mural

Q125 is currently under renovation; in anticipation of a new wing, the school created eight different murals composed of plastic bottle caps, as a fun and artistic way of educating the school's community on the importance of reusing material. Q125 reached out to all local stakeholders -- students, parents, teachers, school staff, and local business -- to help collect plastic bottle caps. Caps were sorted by color, and then they collaborated to create designs.

### Weblink final

[http://www1.nyc.gov/assets/dsny/downloads/pdf/golden-apple-awards/GA15\\_RR\\_IS\\_Q\\_Q125\\_Thomas-McCann\\_entry.pdf](http://www1.nyc.gov/assets/dsny/downloads/pdf/golden-apple-awards/GA15_RR_IS_Q_Q125_Thomas-McCann_entry.pdf)

**School Population: total #** 1571

Core Group:	Total Participating:
25	40

### Collaborations

- NYC Organics Collection
- NYC Compost Project
- GrowNYC RCP
- GrowNYC Grow To Learn
- MFTA
- NWF Eco-Schools
- NYRP MillionTreesNY
- NYRP Rose
- Citizens Comm for NYC

### Prior Year Entries:

first entry

### Current Entries

15:RR-boro

### School Contact Information:

**Phone:** 718-937-0320 x2571

**Address:** 46-01 47 AVENUE  
Woodside

**Block&Lot:** 4001530005

**DOE Location:** Q125

**DOE Bldg:** Q125

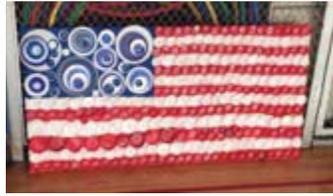
11377

**Contest Coordinator:** Marisa Day

**Principal:** Judy Mittler

**Sustainability Coord:** Marisa Day, Teacher

**Custodian:** Ed Castro



# DSNY Golden Apple Awards Reduce&Reuse



I.S. 125's Reduce & Reuse Bottle Cap Mural



Marisa Day  
Sustainability Advisor



## I.S. 125's Reduce & Reuse Bottle Cap Mural

### **Implementation**

**Why-** Our school is currently under renovation and in anticipation for our new wing, we felt that creating a mural composed of recycled products would be a fun and innovative way to educate our school community on the importance of recycling, and to add artful displays.

**What you did-** We reached out to all of our local stakeholders, students, parents, teachers, school staff, and local business, to aid in collecting plastic bottle caps. Flyers were distributed to every student and staff member along with going to our local delis/pizzerias/restaurants in the schools neighborhood to help with the collection.

#### School collection-

Each homeroom was provided a box and students would bring in caps daily. A green team member would collect weekly from all homerooms. We started collection in mid January and launched a contest in March, awarding a PTA-sponsored pizza party to the homeroom who collected the most caps. This created excitement and increased participation.

#### Local businesses collection-

We handed local business owners a flyer to post near their garbage cans to dispose of plastic caps. A student or I would collect them.

**Before & After-** there wasn't anything before, so our after is our murals!

### **Project planning-**

Objective: Reducing/reusing plastic bottle caps and turning them into art murals for the new wing in upcoming school renovation.

Purpose: This project will stimulate our students' creativity and imagination while recycling. It will teach that recycling can be fun, and show students that we can reuse various types of materials that would have been otherwise waste.

#### Getting Started:

- Collection of caps (students, teachers, staff, local businesses)
- Contact local businesses about participating
- Set up a collection system in school
- Get a team of people on board (sustainability advisor, art teachers, administration, parent coordinator, green team members)

Time and place for sorting colors, designing/building murals (Tuesday afternoons)

(Parent/community/teacher/student - interaction and involvement)

#### Things to do:

- Address the staff in a meeting,
- Flyers have to be made to explain bottle cap collection in school and in community.
- Need to meet with local businesses to see if they would like to participate.
- A timeline will also have to be created
- Letters to parents to come and volunteer to help create mural
- Student permission slips will be needed for after school stay
- Need \$\$\$ to purchase foundation of mural (wood, screws) Home Depot

**Student Involvement-** Green team members collected caps from each homeroom weekly. PTA offered to pay for a pizza party to the class who collected the most caps. A flyer was created to tally up the daily amounts and was given to each homeroom teacher. During lunch periods, green team members and other students would sort out the colors into different boxes. Every student wanted to be involved, whether you were on the green team or not! I had students come on their lunch periods and sort the colors or help place down the caps (getting ready for drilling). I also had my students who were unprepared for physical education help while they were sitting out (which believe it or not was almost 3-4 kids every period) . In addition to my daytime help we had students, and teachers came after school to help design the murals. It was a collaborated effort! This could not have been done without everyone involved.

**Promotion-** I created a proposal to pitch the idea to the administration. I created flyer for the student and staff body explaining the project. The flyer was to be sent home for parents to read and for involvement. The PTA announced it at their monthly meetings. Parents were very excited and wanted to be involved. I created the tally sheets for the homeroom teachers to count up their amounts for the pizza party contest. I created the flyer for the local businesses to post at their establishments. Announcements were made every single morning reminding students to bring in their bottle caps. The school cafeteria staff also helped. They saved boxes from the food deliverers and we used them to have our collection boxes for each homeroom. They also saved the plastic caps and lids from the food they cook for the students. Everyone really did their part!

**Collaboration-** Students and I reached out to local or family businesses to help in the bottle cap collection. Flyers were handed out to the students and they walked into local businesses and asked for participation.

### **Educational components-**

*Standards met were:*

Applied Learning Performance Standards-

A2 Communication Tools and Techniques, A5 Tools and Techniques with Working With Others

New York City Science Scope & Sequence-

7.1a, 7.1b- Human influences on the environment: positive influences,

LE 6.1c ICT 5.1 5.2 – Renewable and nonrenewable sources of materials

### **Project Analysis**

**What worked-** The most successful aspects of this project was everyone's involvement. There would not be a project if I didn't have students and staff handing in the caps.

### **What didn't work-**

1. What didn't work was the fact that I was unable to see what the students were handing in. Many of the caps were dirty or sticky. This made an additional project of cleaning them all out. The school cafeteria has rules about letting students and teachers use their sinks. So it became a problem on how to clean so many tiny little caps. Having students clean them one by one told forever. Another problem was the homeroom teachers did not pay attention to my flyers on only collecting plastic caps. I got metal caps, corks, coffee cup lids (which we so flimsy).
2. Having the students bring the caps on their own wasn't good enough, so they needed an incentive. Creating the pizza party idea to the class who collected the most was just what we needed. We then started to get in a lot of caps. However, the homeroom teachers started taking any plastic cap, ones that we really couldn't use. So maybe next time have a picture of the type of caps I want, instead of saying any plastic cap/lid.

## **Applicability to other schools-**

1. I would recommend that the main collection room/headquarters be a place where the sustainability advisor teaches or has access throughout the day. It is easier to be in control of the collection. You know what you have and what you need more of (color wise). I am the PE teacher so the equipment room became my storage and sorting room.
2. Also recommend sorting the colors immediately. This will save a lot of time in the end. Have the boxes set up, one for each color and as the students bring in their homerooms boxes, have them sort colors right then and there.
3. I also recommend cleaning all the caps, because many are sticky or dirty. You don't want bugs crawling all over your beautiful murals! We soaked them in soap in water in the sinks in the building and the large sinks in the art rooms.
4. Also recommend having some sort of contest to motivate the students. The PTA offered to pay for a pizza party to the class who collected the most.
5. Have announcements said daily reminding students to bring in their caps. We had them incorporated in the announcements every single day.
6. Need teachers who are willing to stay after school and help out
7. Need power drills to drill on caps. Some people use glue gun but after some time the glue can melt and caps will fall off in years to come. **MUST DRILL IN SCREWS**
8. You will need an idea for mural design, school can take a vote or green team can decide.

## **Measuring Success-**

-This was so successful because the whole school was involved. I had other projects and contests that I ran in the school and this by far was the one where everyone really participated and was involved. I even had students who were not on my green team volunteer to help sort out the colors and design murals. I had students come everyday during their lunch periods and help out. It was great to see them so excited for something.

-This project made a positive impact on the students socially, educationally and environmentally. They worked with other students who were not in their classes or age for that matter, and made new friends. They learned to work with others and collaborate with one another. Educationally they learned that we can reduce our waste by reusing it. I think this project made it clear to the students that this can be done with various other waste products. It made them more conscientious of recycling and how beneficial it is to our environment and planet. Hopefully it will make them more prone to recycle in the future.

-The impact on the community was their involvement in a school-based project. It was not only the local businesses who helped our cause, but it went further than that, because we had people who did not attend the school or work at the school helping us out. I had students tell me that their friends or other family members in different neighborhoods were helping collect caps for our school! I also had the teaching staff, tell me that they had family members collecting caps from the World Trade Center! Everyone was helping, those directly related to our school and those indirectly related to our school. It was great to see the mass volume of people involved as we did. We even had teachers and students buying certain products with a specific plastic cap color that we needed. It was wild how involved people became. Some kids were collecting them off the street! (hence us having to clean them all, I had to tell them no more street caps!) But this was making them more conscience to recycle and it made me happy.

All in all I would say our project was very successful. We recreated beautiful murals and brightened up our school and recycled in the process.

## **Future Plans-**

If we win the funds, we would like to make our school greener. Purchasing all new LED lights in all classrooms. (The new renovated part of the building is getting them but the pre-existing part is not).

[Attached here are flyers, permission slips, and photos from project:](#)

## 125's Reduce and Reuse- Bottle Cap Mural Project

We want to help out the environment by recycling, so why not reuse plastic bottle caps/lids and recreate art with it!

We can turn our trash into a masterpiece!!

Please help our school by collecting various types of plastic bottle caps. After we have collected thousands of caps we can make a mural for our school. You can bring these caps from your homes everyday. We will have a collection box in each homeroom. This will take a few months to accumulate then we can start designing our mural with all the different color caps we have collected. We will also ask local businesses to help and have collection boxes set up in their stores/restaurants.

Mrs. Day will enter our school in the Golden Apple Awards in Reduce and Reuse Campaign, and we can win up to a \$10,000 cash prize!!!

### Caps: PLASTIC ONLY

- Soda caps
- Seltzer caps
- Water bottle caps
- Juice caps
- Shampoo caps
- Laundry detergent
- Peanut butter caps
- Jelly caps
- Sprinkles caps
- Gatorade caps
- Cream cheese/butter/sour cream lids
- Peanut lids
- Any other misc plastic caps



Thomas J. McCann Intermediate School I.S. 125  
46-02 47<sup>th</sup> Avenue  
Woodside, New York 11377

*Judy Lynn Mittler, Principal*

April 2, 2015

Dear Parents,

I.S. 125 has been collecting plastic bottle caps for our Reduce & Reuse campaign. Our school is entering to win the Golden Apple Awards Contest. We are designing several murals made up of all the caps we have collected. The school has collected well over 40,000 plastic bottle caps. Many of your children have been handing them in over the last 3 months, and we thank you for the participation. Now that we have all the caps, the design process needs to take place. We are having two after schools days that the students can come and help create the murals. We are holding them on Tuesday April 21<sup>st</sup> and Tuesday April 28<sup>th</sup>. It will be from 2:20pm to 3:20pm each day. Students can attend both days or may attend one if they like. Please explain on permission slip if you would like your child to walk home or be picked up by a parent or guardian. Parents are more than welcome to attend and help as well.

***STUDENTS MUST HAVE A SIGNED PERMISSION FORM (attached below) WITH THEM IN ORDER TO PARTICPATE IN THE MURAL DESIGN. No child will be permitted to attend without a permission slip.***

All permission slips, ***MUST*** indicate whether or not your child is walking home or being picked up. If your child is going to be picked up by a parent, guardian, or other designated adult, their name and contact telephone number must be put on the permission slip.

Any student who is **picked up late will not be permitted to attend in special extracurricular events.**

Please complete the form below, and have your child return it to school in order to attend the mural design. If you have any questions, please contact me at 718-937-0320, extension 5601. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Marisa Day  
Sustainability Coordinator

.....  
I give permission for my child \_\_\_\_\_ of class \_\_\_\_\_  
to attend the I.S.125 Plastic Bottle Cap Mural design. *Please check off what days they will attend.*

\_\_\_\_\_ Tuesday, April 21, 2015 from 2:20 PM to 3:20 PM

\_\_\_\_\_ Tuesday, April 28, 2015 from 2:20 PM to 3:20 PM

***Please check off how your child will go home-***

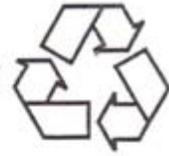
\_\_\_\_\_ I will allow my child to **WALK HOME** after the mural design at 3:20pm

\_\_\_\_\_ My child will be **PICKED UP (on time)** after the mural design at 3:20pm

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of Parent or Guardian

\_\_\_\_\_  
Printed Name of Parent/Guardian

\_\_\_\_\_  
Contact Telephone Number

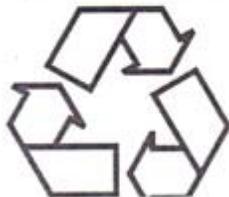


**\*Attention homeroom teachers:**

First I would like to thank you and your class for helping collect bottle caps over the last two months. I really appreciate the involvement, however we still need a ton more! So to motivate our students the PTA has offered to award a pizza party to the homeroom who collects the most bottle caps. Our contest will run in the month of March. Please begin to start your tallying on Monday March 2nd - March 31<sup>st</sup>. I will announce the winners April 1<sup>st</sup>.

Homeroom teachers you can use this sheet to tally your daily amounts or you and your class may create your own. Please make sure its **ONLY PLASTIC** caps or lids. All sizes are welcome. Please return to Mrs. Day on March 31<sup>st</sup> after AM homeroom. Thank you for your cooperation and participation!

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Week of March 2 <sup>nd</sup> -9 <sup>th</sup>					
Week of March 9 <sup>th</sup> -13 <sup>th</sup>					
Week of March 16 <sup>th</sup> -20 <sup>th</sup>					
Week of March 23 <sup>rd</sup> -27 <sup>th</sup>					
Week of March 30 <sup>th</sup> -31 <sup>st</sup>			X	X	X



Good Luck & Thank You!



Pictures of us building/ designing/ sorting





