

SUPER RECYCLERS



Queens Borough
Winner
Elementary Division

PS 221Q
The North Hills School

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

NYC
Recycles

2015 Golden Apple Awards Contest Entry Judging Info

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



ID Info: 15023
School: PS 221Q The North Hills School
Grade Division: LM
Borough: Q
Affiliation: DOE

Cash Prize: \$5,000
Super Recyclers Award: Borough Winner

(for borough Master School Composter)
Golden Shovel Award

Super Recyclers project entry

P.S. 221 North Hills Elementary Goes Green

This year PS 221 delved full force into a new recycling program, starting with the creation of their first Green Team. They educated students and staff members on the "do's and don'ts" of recycling in New York City, partnered with GrowNYC's Recycling Champions Program, implemented a consistent system for recycling in all classrooms, enhanced their recycling system in the cafeteria, and held an "Earth Day, Every Day" event for their entire school community, among other activities.

Weblink final

http://www1.nyc.gov/assets/dsny/downloads/pdf/golden-apple-awards/GA15_SR_LM_Q_Q221_North-Hills_entry.pdf

School Population: total # 650

Core Group: 13
Total Participating: 650

Prior Year Entries:

first entry

Current Entries

15:SR-boro

Collaborations

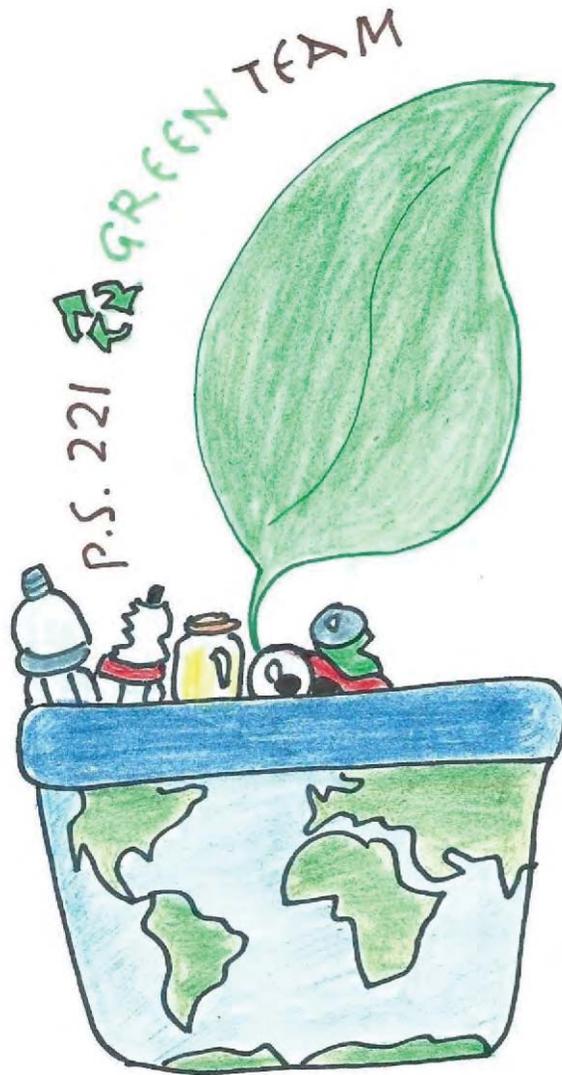
- NYC Organics Collection
- NYC Compost Project
- GrowNYC RCP
- GrowNYC Grow To Learn
- MFTA
- NWF Eco-Schools
- NYRP MillionTreesNY
- NYRP Rose
- Citizens Comm for NYC

School Contact Information:

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Address: 5740 Marathon Parkway
Little Neck 11362
Block&Lot: 4082760620
DOE Location: Q221
DOE Bldg: Q221

Contest Coordinator: Danielle Rothenberg
Principal: Patricia Bullard
Sustainability Coord: Danielle Rothenberg
Custodian: Robert Holmes

P.S. 221Q
North Hills Elementary
Goes Green



Design By: Olivia Wronski - P.S. 221 Green Team Member

We Are Super Recyclers!

P.S.221 Goes Green

This year P.S. 221 delved full force into a new recycling program. In an effort to implement our recycling program we did many things. We started our very first “Green Team”, made our students and staff members aware of the “do’s and don’ts” of recycling in New York City, partnered with Grow NYC’s Recycling Champions program, implemented a consistent system for recycling in all classrooms, enhanced our recycling system in the cafeteria, and held an Earth Day, Every Day event for our school community, just to name a few. The values that have been instilled in our students as well as staff members this year will stay with them for years to come.

Recycling at Our School

Recycling paper and cardboard.

Each classroom has its own green bin for recycling paper. Additionally, there are green bins for each member of our office staff, all administrator offices, the teacher’s lounge, the security desk in the front of the building, the gym, the PTA room, the nurse’s office, and the student cafeteria. Thanks to the donation from Grow NYC’s Recycling Champions program, the bins in each room are the same. We felt that consistency was key for our students and staff. The only exception is our copy room. Since this room generates the most paper waste, there is a larger garbage pail in there, which we re-branded and labeled as the paper recycling bin.



The Copy Room



Classroom Set-Up

Recycling metal, glass, plastic and cartons.

All classrooms allow snack throughout the day, so we felt it was important for each classroom to have their own MGP container. Again, to keep consistency throughout the building, most bins are identical. The main office, administrator offices, the teacher’s lounge, the security desk in the front of the building, the gym, the PTA room, the nurse’s office, and the copy room each have their own blue recycling bin for MGP. Blue bins in the cafeteria as well as the Pre-K room are larger in size due to the amount of MGP waste that is generated in each of these areas.



Pre-K Recycling Set-Up
With Specially Marked Bins



Lunchroom Set-Up

Recycling in the lunchroom.

When we began the enhancement of our recycling program in the lunchroom, we added green team members and sanitation monitors to aid in the collection and separation of waste. Although students were recycling better than they had in past years, there were too many children who needed to discard waste, which was very time consuming. Sometimes children would forget which items were recyclable, and those items would end up in the trash can instead of the recycling bin.

In order to rectify this situation, we created a new way to separate waste. Each class now has a blue basket at their table. The students know that all metal, plastic and glass items belong in the blue recycling basket. The only recyclable item they are allowed to have on their trays when they come to the waste station is a milk carton or juice box. Once they reach the waste station, the children dump their excess liquid into a liquids container and recycle the carton into the cafeteria's large blue bin. Recycling representatives from each class are responsible for distributing the blue bins to their class at the beginning of the period, taking the recycled items and dumping them in the blue recycling bin at the end of lunch, or as needed, and putting the bins back at the end of lunch.



This new system was highlighted in Grow NYC's Recycling Champions March newsletter as a best practice to recommend to other schools.



Recycling collection and setout

Our custodial staff is sure to keep items properly separated. Garbage and recyclables are collected in separate bags. On Tuesday and Thursday our custodians put blue bin items to the curb. We have two pick up areas for our building; one is by the lunchroom door on 60th Ave and

the other is in front of the garage on Marathon Parkway. Blue bin items are placed inside a blue rectangle which is painted on the sidewalk. If the blue bins are full before the scheduled pick up day, our custodial staff stores them inside larger blue bins which are located in the garbage/recycling closet on each floor of the school building. Items that have been collected are also stored behind our school gate on the side of the building or in the garage.

The same system is followed for green bin paper items, however, the pick up days for paper recycling are: Monday, Wednesday, and Friday.



Ready for Pick Up



Storage for the Next Day's Pick Up

School Recycling Program Implementation

Before and After

Before the current 2014-2015 school year, our school was doing some recycling in the cafeteria. The students did not know about many of the items that could be recycled other than milk cartons. We also recycled plastic bottles by having a team of students periodically collect the bottles from each classroom. A parent volunteer would then bring the bottles to the store for recycling. Each classroom had two garbage cans. Neither one was labeled and any and all items were thrown in both cans. There was so much contamination in the recycling bin that the custodians were forced to throw all items into the landfill trash. The only recycling that was done properly and consistently came from the kitchen staff.

From September 2014 on, our school has improved our recycling program in many ways:

- We created a "Green Team" consisting of one student from each third, fourth, and fifth grade class for a total of 13 students. There are two "Green Team" leaders, Mrs. Laura Covelli and Mrs. Danielle Rothenberg.
- All classrooms are equipped with three properly labeled trash and recycling bins; one blue can for MGP, one green can for paper, and one black can for landfill trash. Teachers are sure to keep bins next to one another to reduce contamination. They understand the importance of keeping bins close, which gives the children a better

opportunity to throw their trash in the proper bin. If bins are too far away from one another, students may decide to throw their trash in the closest bin, rather than the correct bin.

- The “Green Team” generated 3D posters to help students remember where to throw their trash. The students chose items that are commonly discarded in the lunchroom so children would know exactly where to place them. These posters were then displayed in the student cafeteria for all children to see.



- The “Green Team” has its own bulletin board in the lunchroom where members have displayed tips for proper recycling. Pictures of “Green Team” members and sanitation monitors working cooperatively to teach others how to be self-sufficient recyclers are posted on the board, along with examples of common recycling mistakes to help students and teachers be better recyclers.



- We've joined several Terracycle brigades to further promote the idea of zero waste. We are currently on the waiting list for two of Terracycles most popular brigades; the writing instruments brigade, and the snack bag brigade. While we are waiting to be accepted, we are collecting and storing writing instruments and chip bags. So far we have collected approximately 20lbs of writing materials and about 500 chip bags. We are currently enrolled in Terracycles Colgate oral care brigade. Students have been asked to bring oral care packaging and old toothbrushes to school so we can keep them out of landfills. We have collected about 12 pounds of oral care products since the end of March 2015.



- We have improved our blue bin recycling efforts in the lunchroom by having the students presort their MGP items while they are at their table. Each class has a blue basket which is circulated through the table during the lunch period so students may discard their MGP items. A recycling representative for the class is then in charge of throwing the items into the blue recycling bin. Additionally, responsible students have been given garbage grabber sticks to help remove items that may accidentally end up in the wrong trash/recycling bin.



- Staff members received professional development on how to recycle properly so they could better relay the information to their classes. Teachers also have the opportunity to reach out to “Green Team” members or leaders if they are unsure as to where an item belongs. Our motto is “If you don’t know, ask before you throw.” When teachers ask the members of our team where something belongs it in turn models responsible recycling behavior for their students. This has helped the students voice their concerns as well, which has led to better sorting of trash.
- Many teachers enjoy a cup of coffee in our assistant principal’s office. This has created a large amount of waste. In order to lessen the amount of landfill trash, class 5-207 helps recycle K-Cups by using the coffee grinds for compost, and then planting herbs inside the plastic cups. When the cups can no longer be of use, they are recycled.



- Since paper towels are not recyclable, our school has installed automatic paper towel dispensers in all teacher bathrooms. This has cut down on a tremendous amount of paper towel waste.
- In order to monitor the progress of each class, we implemented weekly inspections to be sure that our school members are keeping up with our recycling initiative. In addition, we've recently begun to give each class written feedback describing ways that they have shined, as well as how they can improve recycling.



Project Planning

In order to implement a working recycling program, we decided to start out slow. In the spring of 2014, we applied for Grow NYC's Recycling Champions program. We were happy to hear that our school was accepted for the fall semester. Before meeting with Mr. Copeland, our school's Recycling Champions Outreach Coordinator, we devised a plan to create a "Green Team" for our school. Applications for the "Green Team" were handed out to all third, fourth, and fifth grade students. We also made a list of things we hoped to accomplish during the school year so we could share our thoughts and hopes with our outreach coordinator.

On September 16th, we met with Mr. Copeland, administration, the custodial staff, the kitchen staff and green team leaders. During the meeting we discussed upcoming dates as well as a vision for the future our schools recycling program.

We generated the several objectives for our project.

Students and staff members will:

- collectively partake in our endeavor to successfully recycle on a consistent basis.
- collectively understand how to properly sort their trash.
- create a core “Green Team,” which would take charge of promoting our new recycling initiative, as well as teaching fellow peers (and even some teachers) how to recycle.
- create a consist recycling system throughout the building.
- understand the importance of recycling so that they will not only recycle in school, but at home as well. We also wanted students to understand how recycling relates to the future of our planet.
- become recycling ambassadors who would go home and teach their families how to properly recycle, and share their knowledge on the importance of recycling.

On October 14th, “Green Team” leaders, Danielle Rothenberg and Laura Covelli, attended the Sustainability Initiative Training that was offered to New York City schools.

Student Involvement

The students at P.S. 221 have played many important roles in our recycling efforts. For example:

- “Green Team” members taught students as well as parents from our community. During this year’s annual Science Fair “Green Team” members led several workshops to help teach others the importance of recycling, as well as how to sort trash properly. The “Green Team” has also been responsible for running competitions to get students motivated to recycle. Additionally, “Green Team” members are in charge of inspecting bins on a weekly basis, and monitoring recycling efforts in their classrooms as well as the cafeteria. Our “Green Team” has also been the driving force behind many of the special recycling events that have been held throughout the year. “Green Team” members took the initiative to come up with ideas and then put those ideas into action.
- Recycling representatives from each class take on a leadership role. Each representative is in charge of the recycling at their lunchroom table. They also assist with monitoring proper recycling in their classroom.
- Students who participate in the Botanical Gardens After-School Gardening Class learned how to compost. These students led workshops during our Earth Day, Every Day celebration.

Promotion

Our school used all available resources in order to actively engage our school community in our recycling initiative. Through regular networking with Mr. Copeland, frequent training offered to our staff and students, open communication, and consistent dedication and effort on the part of our “Green Team,” we have worked diligently to promote our initiative in a fun and educational way.

- Mr. Copeland gave teachers professional development in September 2014. Teachers learned how to properly sort trash in NYC, as well as many interesting facts about recycling and landfill trash. Many of the teachers had questions and were surprised by some of the facts that they learned. This got teachers excited about the new recycling program.
- On October 3rd, our school held a Recycling Champions assembly. Students from grades 1-5 learned many facts about recycling. They learned which items were recyclable and then learned how to sort their trash. On this day, our newly formed “Green Team” labeled and distributed brand new green cans for each classroom, office, etc. They also rebranded and labeled the two existing cans. One was labeled for blue recycling purposes and the other was labeled “Trash Only, No Recyclables.” The students finally knew how to properly sort their trash, and had the correct tools to do so in the classroom.



- On October 8th each Kindergarten class and Pre-K class was introduced to the new recycling program. On this day we also launched the new recycling initiative in the lunchroom. Students would no longer recycle ONLY milk cartons. They would now recycle items, such as sporks, plastic cups, straws, aluminum foil, water bottles, etc. in addition to the milk cartons.



- “Green Team” members created posters to help show students how to properly recycle common lunchroom items and displayed the poster in the cafeteria.
- Monthly newsletters that were, and still are, sent home to families included reminders to recycle properly at home, and to create or enhance an at home recycling system.
- Letters were sent to teachers reminding them about our new initiative, and giving them tips for proper recycling in their classrooms.
- To get students more excited about recycling, the “Green Team” held a competition among classes to see which classes were the best recyclers. During this time the Green Team monitored and recorded the weekly progress that each class was making. Prizes were given to the best recyclers along with the most improved recyclers.
- On October 21st Mr. Copland, along with the “Green Team” leaders, presented our new recycling program to the PTA during their monthly meeting.
- In November 2014 we entered the “Green Cup Alliance Green Cup Challenge” At the end of the competition we ranked 15 out of 75 schools, and were 1 of 8 schools noted as most improved.
- In December of 2014, “Green Team” leaders Mrs. Rothenberg and Mrs. Covelli taught an enrichment class geared towards teaching students how to turn trash into treasure.



- In December of 2014, Mr. Copeland, along with the “Green Team”, awarded children that were recycling properly in the lunchroom with a raffle ticket. At the end of the period the raffle tickets were drawn randomly and each winning student won an item made from recycled materials.
- In January we implemented our new blue basket sorting system in the cafeteria.



- In February our school joined the Terracycle writing instruments brigade. “Green Team” members upcycled tissue boxes and created writing instrument collection boxes for each classroom.



- In March of 2015 our school was featured in the “Recycling Champions” monthly newsletter for our presorting blue basket system in the cafeteria.



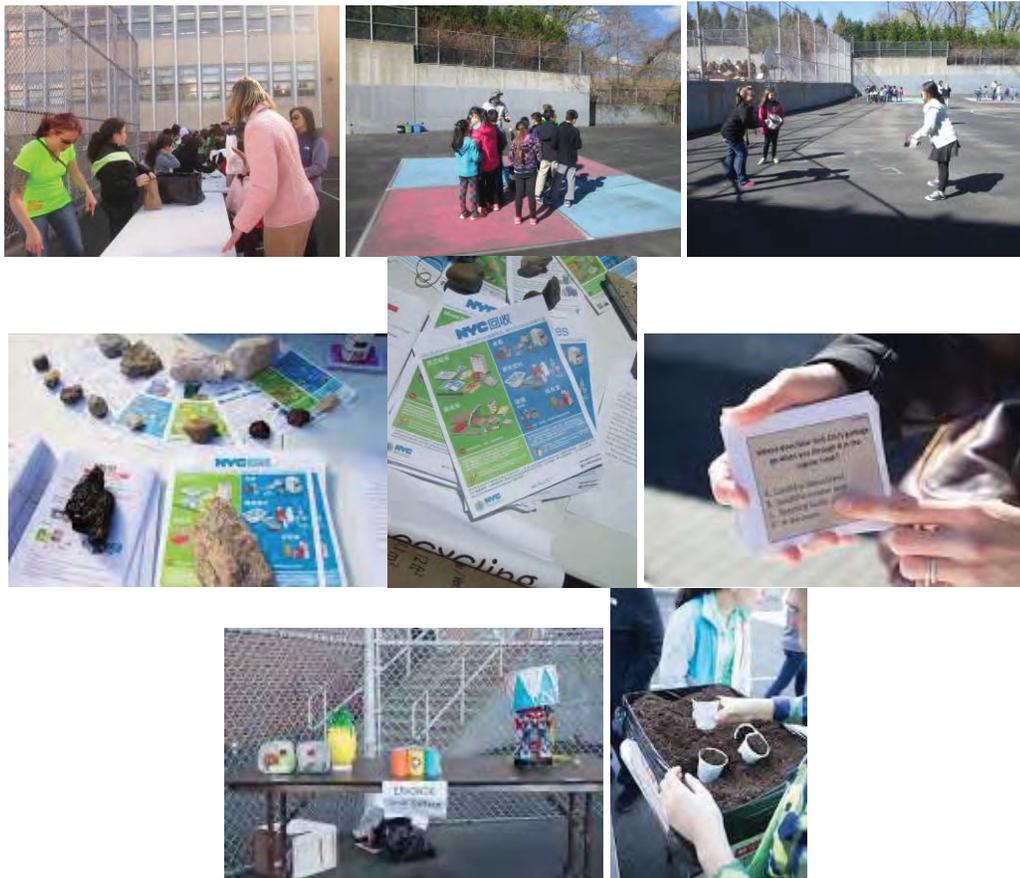
- On March 10th we held our annual science fair. Some additions to this year’s fair were, a presentation from the “Green Team” and projects created by the third grade students to demonstrate how garbage can be upcycled.



- On April 28th we held our very first “Earth Day, Every Day” event. Some highlights of the event were: a recycling information table which included materials in several languages for students to take and share at home, a table of upcycled projects for students to get inspiration from, a table showing how to compost and how compost can be useful, a table for Terracycle so students could see just how much waste we’ve generated from each brigade, and a used book sale which prevented unwanted books from ending up as landfill trash.

- In addition to the informational tables and book sale, students were able to do some interactive activities such as; planting in compostable pots which were made of biodegradable peat fiber, answering recycling trivia questions, and running in recycling relay races to see who could sort their trash the fastest and most efficiently.

On this day, all students received a DSNY recycling comic book appropriate for their age, as well as bracelets reminding them to “go green” or recycle.



- We are proud to say that we have been entered into the Recycling Champions “Big Lift” contest. We will be competing against 14 other schools throughout New York City this coming May to keep waste to a minimum.

Collaboration

Since September 2014 we joined forces with many organizations in order to strengthen our recycling program.

Grow NYC's recycling Champions program was a great support system for us. Mr. Thad Copeland was always there when we had questions or concerns, helped run many of the promotional events that inspired our children, and gave us valuable suggestions which helped us grow into the efficient recyclers we are today.

We received a grant from the Queens Botanical Gardens, which created two after-school gardening classes for our children. The classes are comprised of 30 children each, ranging from grades 3 to 5. These classes meet every Friday from 2:40 to 4:45. Our students have learned not only how to plant, but how to compost. This skill will be necessary for next year; as we plan to expand our recycling program to include composting as well. .

Terracycle has been a wonderful partner in helping us promote the idea of zero waste. Before entering the writing, snack bag, and Colgate oral care brigades, many more items were ending up as landfill trash. By joining Terracycle we have been able to show our students that there is a possibility of a world with minimal to no waste. Additionally, we have entered Terracycles Colgate Shoprite Playground challenge. Family members and friends are encouraged to not only send in their oral care waste, but to vote for our school on Terracycle's website. Each time someone votes they are exposed to the Terracycle website. This gives them the opportunity to explore Terracycle's website and to learn more about how to recycle hard-to-recycle items.

By entering the "Green Schools Alliance Green Cup Challenge" we generated excitement about recycling from our students and staff.

Educational Components

Students in Grades PreK-5 received multiple lessons on how to recycle. Our primary science teacher, along with the upper grade science teacher each implemented several lessons with their students. Lesson ideas from [The NYC K-12 School RRResource Guide](#) were modified to meet the needs of individual classes and grade levels. These lessons not only investigated the need for recycling, but the proper way to do so. During the lessons, students were given the opportunity to openly discuss how they recycle at home, and gave one another suggestions to make their recycling plan at home more efficient.

Students also created thinking maps to highlight the proper bin for commonly used items.



Some specific lessons which were followed include:

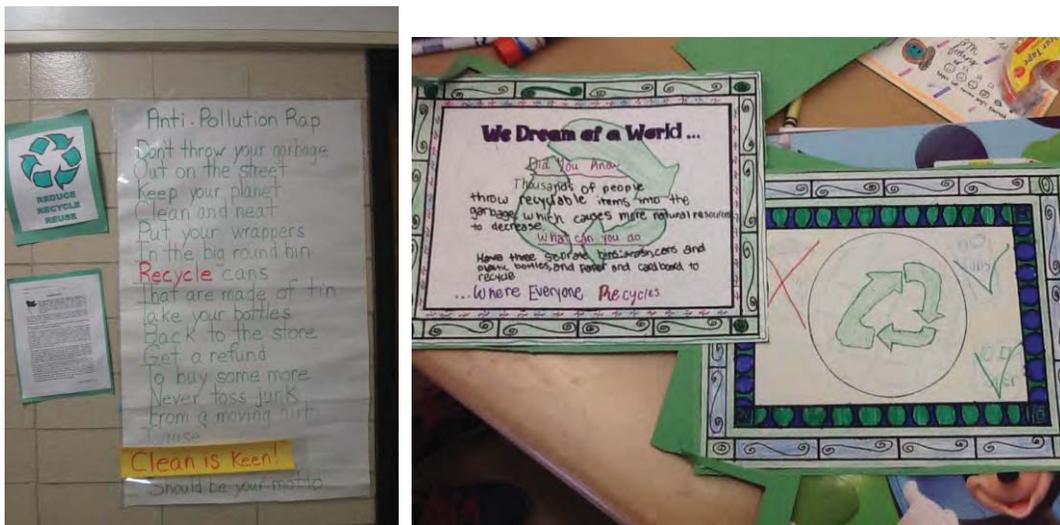
Chapter 1 - Activity 1 - Understanding What We Throw Away

Chapter 3 - Activity 1 - Recycling in the Classroom

Chapter 3 - Activity 4 - Understanding When to Reduce, Reuse, or Recycle

Additionally, grade 2 students completed Chapter 2 from the New York City Edition of the Harcourt science textbook. This chapter explores natural resources and how to care for them, including a lesson on reducing, reusing and recycling waste.

Individual classroom teachers also took the initiative to discuss the importance of caring for our Earth and recycling. Through the use of read alouds, class-wide discussions, and “teachable moments,” when students expressed confusion about where to throw their trash, our classroom teachers supported our new recycling program.

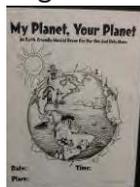


Cluster teachers supported our program as well.

In art class, students created works of art which were made from items such as old book pages, magazine clippings, and scraps of paper.



In music class, second grade students learned songs which taught others about how to care for the Earth. The students performed these songs at our annual science fair.



In computer class, fifth grade students created fliers to promote the idea of recycling.



Learning Standards Addressed:

New York City Science Scope and Sequence

7.1 a Human influences on the environment: positive influences

7.1c, 7.2a, 7.2b, 7.2c Human influences on the environment: negative influences

LE 6.1c Renewable and nonrenewable sources of materials

PS3.1b,c Observe and describe physical properties of objects using all of the appropriate senses: size, shape, texture, weight, color, etc. Determine whether objects are alike or different.

New York State Common Core Learning Standards for ELA and Literacy

College and Career Readiness Anchor Standards

Subsection 3 Knowledge of Language

Subsection 4 Vocabulary Acquisition and Use

College and Career Readiness Anchor Standards for Speaking and Listening

Subsection 1 Comprehension and Collaboration

Subsections 4,6 Presentation of Knowledge and Ideas

College and Career Readiness Anchor Standards for Writing

Subsections 7,8,9 Research to Build and Present Knowledge

Subsection 11 Responding to Literature

Project Analysis

What worked?

We are especially proud of all of our students and staff members who have been so eager to learn more about recycling. All members of our P.S. 221 community now understand the importance of recycling as well as how to properly sort trash. With the guidance of our Recycling Champions Outreach Coordinator we were able to generate excitement about recycling. Often times teachers will call on our “Green Team” to answer questions about hard-to-recycle products; such as Pringles chip cans. We are happy to know that students and staff are mindful of where their trash should go.

The formation of a “Green Team” has proven itself extremely useful. The “Green Team” members have each taken on many responsibilities and ensure that our buildings recycling goes smoothly.

By creating consistency with bins, and a common recycling language throughout our building, we have been able to further support our program.

What didn't work?

Although the use of written inspection feedback is useful, some classes, especially in the lower grades, felt that the grade posting on the outside of their room was disheartening to children who were working hard but may still have some mistakes.

Upon reflection, we plan to implement a star system for our PreK-2 classes, which will reward each class for its efforts while acknowledging progress with the number of stars earned (1-4).

It is often challenging to enforce recycling during after-school events. Community members that have not made recycling a way of life at home often throw their trash in the wrong bin. We are exploring ways to monitor our garbage collection during such events.

Applicability to Other Schools

Our advice to other schools would be to start out slow and work your way through each challenge that comes along. It is essential to have all staff members on board with your initiative. Create a core “Green Team” of children who will be responsible leaders. It is also important to continue doing fun activities throughout the school year to create excitement about recycling and to give reminders about how to properly recycle.

Measuring Success

- We showed a lot of improvement over the 4 week period in which we participated in the Green Cup Challenge.
- Weekly inspections have shown class improvement.
- Our weekly landfill garbage bags have decreased from approximately 35 bags to 20 bags, while our recycling numbers have increased. We have increased our MGP recycling by approximately 8 more bags a week and our paper recycling has increased by approximately 10 more bags a week.

Future Plans

If we win this contest we would like to put the prize money toward:

- Trips to the SIMS Municipal Recycling Center
- Assembly programs such as The Grand Falloons
- Small see-through compost containers for each classroom so children will better understand how waste decomposes.
- Purchasing large compost bins and other materials to support our up and coming school garden

Some things we plan to do to expand our recycling program are:

- Create a website for the “Green Team” to better spread the word about caring for the Earth
- Modify our inspection system
- Come up with new and innovative to keep students engaged and excited about recycling
- Begin announcing “a green tip” for the week during morning announcements

The following pages are dedicated to letters which were generated for students, staff, and/or P.S.221 families:

10/6/14

Dear Staff Members,

New Garbage Set-Up

This past Friday, October 3rd, members of our Green Team visited the classrooms to deliver green garbage cans and convert our tall plastic cans to blue recycling cans. They should have pulled the old green label off of your can and replaced it with a blue label. This means that every K-5 classroom should now have three cans: one can for garbage, one can with a blue decal for plastic recyclables, and a third green can for all paper items EXCEPT paper towels, tissues and napkins.

If your classroom does not have the proper cans please notify Danielle Rothenberg or Laura Covelli as soon as possible and we will ensure you get the correct set up. If you are not a K-5 classroom teacher and need the proper garbage set up, please write us a note or an e-mail letting us know what you are missing and we will get it to you right away. We will be around as soon as possible this week to check all rooms, but we can get the items you need to you sooner if you send us the information.

Avoiding Contamination

As we move forward in our endeavor to become master recyclers please remind your children to stop and think before choosing a can to throw their garbage in. When recycling cans become contaminated with enough items that do not belong we cannot recycle any of the items in that can. The largest contaminates in school recycling cans are paper towels and tissues. Please take a minute each day to remind your class these items do not belong in the paper recycling can, but rather, in the regular garbage can.

Where to Keep Your Cans

If possible we would like all garbage and recycling cans to remain next to each other so the children have a choice where to throw their garbage. If the cans are left separate children are more likely to throw their garbage in the nearest can rather than the correct can. In order to help our custodial staff please position the cans in the front of the room as close to the door as possible.

Garbage Collection

For grades 1-5, members of the green team will be around towards the end of each day to dump your blue cans. On the kindergarten floor Mike will take care of all garbage and recycling cans. The custodians will dump your green recycling cans when they are full or when the paper recycling is going to be put out. Please remember that if you have more than one garbage can (non-recyclable), you should consolidate the cans at the end of each day and keep the can the custodians will dump by the door.

We know this week may not be perfect, but if we work together we'll be master recyclers soon enough.

Inspections

Every Friday, starting this Friday, October 10th, our Green Team members will be popping into your rooms sometime during 6th period to do an inspection of your garbage cans. They will be looking to see that your children are properly sorting their garbage. We will be holding school wide competitions and rewarding classes that are most efficient with their sorting.

In addition to Friday inspections, students or teachers who are part of the Green Team may do random checks once or twice a month on other days of the week. This should not interfere with your teaching since children can check your cans quickly and quietly.

Concerns

We know that change does not happen overnight and we thank you in advance for your patience, hard work, and cooperation as our school goes green. Be sure you work with your class this week to become master recyclers. If you have any immediate concerns or questions please let us know, otherwise we would like to give you all a week to see how the recycling is going in your room and then on Monday, October 16th we will address any new concerns or questions that you have.

Happy Recycling!

Sincerely,

Danielle Rothenberg and Laura Covelli

12/3/14

Dear Teachers,

In order to strengthen our recycling program, we would like each class in grades 1-5 to choose a recycling representative. This child's responsibilities will be as follows:

- collecting the recyclables from his/her classmates at lunchtime
(First grade representatives will assist a Green Team member with this)
- checking his/her classes trash and recycling bins for contaminants 1-2 times a day

Please choose a child that is interested in this position, and is able to follow directions well. We would like the recycling in the cafeteria to go as smoothly as possible.

Although these children will not attend weekly meetings, we would like them to attend the first 15 minutes of our Green Team meeting on Friday, December 5th in order to receive instructions for the new lunchtime procedures.

We would greatly appreciate it if we could get the name of the child you have chosen by Friday, December 5th. Please place the name of the child you have chosen in Danielle's mailbox.

Thank you,
Danielle & Laura

Class _____

Recycling Representative

Dear Parents,

This year we will be holding our first Earth Day Celebration. We would like to welcome all P.S. 221 family members and friends to join us for this event. The celebration will take place on Tuesday, April 28th during school hours. At our event we will have several stations including a table for; recycling information, an "Earth Day" craft, recycling games, "Terracycle", information about our garden plan and composting, examples of reusable items, etc.

In addition to our informational and craft tables, we will be holding a gently used book sale and a flower sale.

At this time we would like to reach out to all of our P.S.221 family members to help us make this celebration a success. Here is what you can do to help:

- Send in any unwanted, gently used books. (books for children as well as adults are welcome)
- Send in empty, crumb free, chip and pretzel bags for our "Terracycle Chip Bag Brigade" collection.
- Send in dried up pens, mechanical pencils, and markers for our "Terracycle Writing Brigade" collection.
- Fill out the form below if you are able to dedicate time to assist with stations on April 28th

We would like to thank you in advance for your participation. Anything you can do to help is much appreciated.

Sincerely,

Mrs. Covelli and Mrs. Rothenberg
(Green Team Leaders)

Parent Name _____

Child's Name _____ Class _____

Please indicate whether you are available to assist all day or during a specific time frame:

Phone Number _____

E-Mail _____

You're Invited!

Dear P.S. 221 Families,

On Tuesday, April 28th, each class is scheduled to visit our "Earth Day, Every Day" celebration. We would like to extend our invitation to all P.S.221 family members and friends. The scheduled time for each class can be found on the back of this letter.

At our event we will have several stations including a table for; recycling information, recycling games, "Terracycle," information about our garden plan and composting, examples of reusable items, and a planting craft.

In addition to our informational and Craft tables, we will be holding a gently used book sale, and seed sale. **Books will range in price from \$1.00 to \$2.00. Seed packets will each be sold for \$1.00.** All proceeds will go towards expanding our school's efforts to "go green."

We look forward to seeing you during our "Earth Day, Every Day" celebration.

Sincerely,

Mrs. Rothenberg and Mrs. Covelli
(Green Team Leaders)

Got Books?

Dear P.S.221 Families,

Do you have any unwanted books that are collecting dust? If so, we would love to add them to our used book sale that will take place on April 28th, during our “Earth Day Every Day” celebration.

Please send your book donations in any time between now and Friday, April 24th. You can send in children’s books, adult books, books written in foreign languages, etc. Books can be given to Mrs. Rothenberg during morning line-up, or brought up to the science room and placed in the book donation box at the front of the room. Let’s keep books out of landfills and put them into the hands of our students. All proceeds from the sale will go towards our school’s efforts to go green.

Thank you for all of your support!

Sincerely,

Mrs. Rothenberg and Mrs. Covelli
(Green Team Leaders)

**DON’T FORGET TO VOTE FOR PS221 AT
www.terracycle.com/colgateshopriteplayground**

Let's Celebrate Earth Day

"The very first Earth Day was celebrated on April 22, 1970. This day was created by American Senator, Gaylord Nelson, to make people aware of the importance of keeping our planet healthy and clean. On that day, people made promises to help the environment and make positive changes in their community. Since then, more than 500 million people in over 180 countries have participated in Earth Day activities!"

(http://www.ecokids.ca/pub/eco_info/topics/environmental/earthday/)

Below you will find a list of some activities your family may enjoy in honor of Earth Day.

- Plant a tree.
 - A single tree will absorb one ton of carbon dioxide over its lifetime.
 - There are many free tree giveaways in the surrounding areas. Visit <https://www.nyrp.org/green-spaces/tree-giveaway> for more information
- Visit <http://tinkerlab.com/fifty-earth-day-activities/> for some creative activities
- Create or revise your home recycling system.
- Sign a petition to help our planet at <http://www.earthday.org/takeaction/>

Follow these "Green Tips" suggested by www.timeforkids.com:

- **Change a light**
Replace a regular bulb with a more energy-efficient compact fluorescent bulb.
- **Drive less**
Walk, bike, use public transportation like a subway, bus or even car pool. Talk to your parents about considering a hybrid, or alternative fuel vehicle. And keep your tires inflated properly.
- **Recycle more**
Think before you throw away trash. Recycle instead. Cut down on how much you throw in the trash, which ultimately ends up in a landfill. And be sure to take e-waste, like computers, cell phones and hazardous waste to a special recycling facility.
- **Avoid products with a lot of packaging**
When it comes to your shopping habits, consider buying products that are better for the environment or that are made from recycled materials, and have less or no packaging. And when it comes to food, support local farmers markets.
- **Use less hot water**
It takes a lot of energy to heat water. Install a low flowing shower head and wash a full load of clothes in cold or warm water.
- **Adjust your thermostat**
Moving your thermostat down 2 degrees in winter and up 2 degrees in summer can save a lot of energy. And ask your parents if your local utility company offers alternative power. If so, consider switching.
- **Turn off electronic devices**
Simply turning off your TV, DVD player, stereo, and unplugging your iPod and cell phone charger when not in use, will save you thousands of pounds of CO₂ a year.
- **Spread the word**
Talk to your friends, family and school teachers. Teach them what you've learned and make your house and school as green as possible. Think of ways to raise awareness & educate others, create fundraisers in your local community to make a change.
- **Go Green**
Work to make these changes in your daily life so it becomes second nature.

****P.S.221 will be hosting an Earth Day, Every Day celebration during the school day on Tuesday, April 28th. Please join us as we share some valuable information on how to help our Earth. ****

Did You Know?

Energy & Waste

The average American produces more than four pounds of garbage per day. Over the course of a year, that is more than 1,600 pounds of garbage per person.

Almost half of the food in the U.S. goes to waste - approximately 3,000 pounds per second.

The recycling rate has increased from less than 10% in 1980 to more than 34% in 2011.

Plastic

In 2012, the U.S. produced 32 million tons of plastic. Only 9% was recovered for recycling.

It takes about 450 years for plastic beverage bottles to break down in a landfill.

The energy saved by recycling one plastic bottle can power a computer for 25 minutes.

Glass

It takes approximately 1 million years for a glass bottle to break down in a landfill.

The energy saved from recycling one glass bottle will operate a 100-watt light bulb for four hours.

Producing glass from new materials requires 30% more energy than using used glass.

Paper

Americans use about 69 million tons of paper and paperboard each year.

Preventing one ton of paper waste saves between 15 and 17 mature trees.

By recycling 1 ton of paper, we save enough energy to heat a home for six months.

Water

Almost 97% of the world's water is salty or otherwise undrinkable. Another 2% is locked in ice caps and glaciers. Only 1% is usable for agriculture, manufacturing, and personal needs.

The average American uses about 100 gallons of water per day and more than 100,000 gallons of water per year.

Every square mile of the oceans contains more than 46,000 pieces of floating plastic.

About 8 million metric tons of plastic goes into the ocean each year.

Sources: Environmental Protection Agency, Associated Press, Clean Air Council, Recycle Across America

Let's do our part each day to make our planet a better, cleaner, healthier planet.

DON'T FORGET TO VOTE FOR PS221 AT

www.terracycle.com/colgateshopriteplayground

While you're voting please check out the rest of the Terracycle website to see all they do to help our environment.

Let's Win A New School Playground!

To Our P.S. 221 Families:

We recently entered "Terracycles Colgate® and ShopRite® Recycled Playground Challenge." This contest has already begun and will continue through June 13th. We need your help and your votes. All you have to do to help us win this amazing prize is take a few minutes each day to vote for our school online. It's as simple as that! Each vote that is cast for PS221 will earn our school 1 playground credit. The official rules state; "Limit one vote per person (as identified by the "authorized subscriber" of the email account used in the vote) per day." Please encourage everyone in your family that has their own e-mail to vote once per day. The school with the most playground credits by June 13th will win a playground made from recycled oral care products.

We can also earn playground credits by collecting oral care products such as used toothpaste tubes and caps, old toothbrushes, toothpaste and toothbrush packaging, and floss containers (please see the back of this paper for more details). These products will be shipped to "Terracycle" and will be recycled into new products.

Again, here is what you can do to help:

- Visit <http://www.terracycle.com/en-US/colgateshopriteplayground> each day between now and June 13th and vote for ps221 in Little Neck.
- Spread the word to family members and friends, encouraging them to vote each day.
- "Like" our Facebook page "PS221 North Hills New Playground Contest" and share any posts made to help encourage others to vote for us.
- Send in your used oral care product packaging.

Together we can win our school a beautiful new playground. Let's go Team 221!

Sincerely,
Mrs. Rothenberg

A letter from our Recycling Champions Coordinator

Thaddeus Copeland [tcopeland@grownyc.org]

[Actions](#)

To:

[Rothenberg Danielle \(26Q221\)](#); [Arnold Laura \(Q221\)](#)

Cc:

[Bullard Patricia \(26Q221\)](#)

Inbox

Tuesday, April 28, 2015 4:40 PM

You replied on 4/28/2015 10:43 PM.

Hi Danielle and Laura -

Congratulations on a very successful event. I've worked many of Earth Day events and this was the most well organized one that I have participated in. In addition, it is very rewarding to see the mastery of recycling that your students have accomplished. You're all recycling champions indeed!!

I will see you all again when we schedule the date to weigh garbage/recycling for The Big Lift contest! Will be in touch about that soon.

Take care,
Thad