

SUPER RECYCLERS



Citywide Winner
Elementary Division

PS 58
The Carroll School

2016 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
nyc.gov/zerowaste





School Information

- School Number: PS 58
- School Name: The Carroll School
- School Address: 330 Smith Street
- School City: Brooklyn
- School Zip Code: 11231
- School Population: 1000

Contact Information:

- Principal Name: Katie Dello Stritto
- Coordinator Name: Genevieve Vanegas
- School Phone Number: (718) 330-9322

Contest Entry:

- Contest Grade Division: Elementary
- Contest Entry Title: PS58 Team Green
- Contest Entry Summary: PS58 in Brooklyn has moved from having no systematic recycling program in 2014 to recycling nearly 75% of its waste in 2016.



MISSION STATEMENT

We respect the environment. We work together to reduce the impact of our school on the world we share with other species and future generations. We recycle. We lead by example, educating ourselves and others about good habits that benefit a healthy and sustainable environment.



WE RESPECT the environment. We work together to **REDUCE** the impact of our school on the world. **WE SHARE** with other species and future generations. **WE RECYCLE.** We lead by example, educating ourselves and others about good habits that **BENEFIT** a healthy and sustainable environment.

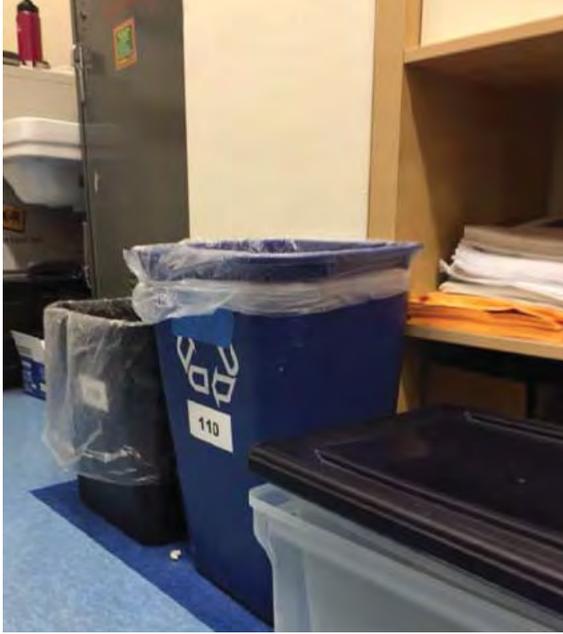
REDUCE • REUSE • RECYCLE • RESPECT



PS58 in Brooklyn NY recycling system is based on having a **RECYCLING STATION** in every classroom, office, and common area of the school serving 1,000 students. Each classroom has a **RECYCLING AREA** where a green labeled bin for PAPER and a black bin for landfill trash are housed. In addition each classroom has smaller bins for collecting GMPC and Organics that Classroom Recycling Captains take to larger bins at the end of each of three floors.



A designated recycling station is located at the main entrance to each floor with a green labeled bin for paper/cardboard, a blue bin for GMPC, a brown Organics bin and a Landfill Trash labeled bin. Student Recycling Captains bring GMPC and Organics, as well as excess cardboard and Landfill Trash to these **HALLWAY BINS.**



Each office has a bin for Paper Recycling and a Landfill Trash bin. The **AUDITORIUM** has a PAPER and landfill bin. The **GYM** has GMPC, PAPER and Landfill bins. The **MAIN OFFICE** has centrally located PAPER, GMPC, ORGANICS bins and Landfill bins at each desk. Tandem collection bins are used to keep paper and Landfill separate.



In the **CAFETERIA SET-UP**, TeamGreen has 3 Recycling Stations where students separate their Organics from GMPC and Landfill waste. Lunchtime Captains volunteer to oversee separation.



Organics are collected everyday and **SET-OUT FOR COLLECTION** at the curb after school. Paper and cardboard are housed in the classroom on Tuesday and Thursdays and collected on Monday, Wednesday and Friday for set-out on those days. GMPC (glass is not allowed in the school) is put on the curb for pick-up Monday and Thursdays.



The Centerpiece of **PS58 TEAMGREEN ENTRY** is a film TeamGreen put together that tells the story of the Recycling efforts in our school.

[PLEASE CLICK TO VIEW HERE](#)

[HTTPS://VIMEO.COM/163328932](https://vimeo.com/163328932)



BEFORE

- Trash housed in schoolyard
- Little awareness among staff about recycling
- Confusion about what to recycle and where
- No clear system of collection
- Low morale regarding recycling
- No student involvement

AFTER

- Instituted a system of trash set-out that followed DSNY collection schedule
- Created clear recycling stations with coordinated signage
- Appointed student Recycling Captains in classrooms and lunchroom
- Developed three-legged stool approach to reducing waste generation: Classrooms, Cafeteria and School Events

For the new school year PS58 is rededicating itself to separating 100% of its trash for effective recycling.

Now that cafeteria is serving lunch on compostable trays, a full 90% of the waste generated can be separated. Recycling Captains from grades 2-5 are helping to monitor compliance.

The GreenTeam is working with Sustainability Coordinators to craft a Classroom Recycling Challenge to provide incentive and adherence.

The GreenTeam will visit the classrooms again this week for a quick refresher on recycling protocol and to invite them to the Challenge.

If the cafeteria and classrooms are two legs of the recycling stool, events at the school are the definite third leg. The GreenTeam is working to create a permanent PTA GreenTeam to communicate the school's sustainability goals to parents and to help classrooms recycle during parties and school-wide events.

Our intention is to enter the City's GoldenApple Contest May 2 and develop our recycling program accordingly, with the idea of creating a program that is self-sustaining year after year.

We recommend a SLT committee dedicated to this effort. For one thing, if the school is fortunate enough to win up to \$10,000, it will need to be decided how to invest those dollars. More importantly, the school will need to continue to look ahead as to how best to again rededicate itself both to the law and to the principles of sustainability.



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PROJECT PLANNING

Sustainability Coordinator and Parent Recycling Coordinator communicated monthly with an SLT (School Leadership Team) liaison to set goals and monitor progress. A three-legged stool approach to reducing waste was put in place:

- 1. CLASSROOM RECYCLING**
- 2. CAFETERIA RECYCLING**
- 3. SCHOOL EVENTS**



FAQ

●Why is there always a big trash pile in the schoolyard?

As of October 2014 the NYC Dept of Sanitation does not collect all of our school's trash every day. Consequently, the school must house its trash somewhere and the schoolyard is the only available place.

●Why not put the trash at the curb?

Trash cannot be put out on the curb until after school hours on collection day.

●Why isn't the Dept of Sanitation collecting our trash everyday?

The DOS is collecting trash everyday from our school, but it no longer picks up all our trash everyday. Instead it follows a schedule:

- MWF – paper & cardboard
- T TH – glass, metal, plastics and cartons (GMPC)
- M TH – landfill trash
- MTWTHF – Organics

●What are "Organics"?

Organics are food waste generated by the school. Food scraps, including meat and bones, from the cafeteria or any classroom or school event, including compostable lunch trays, food-soiled paper, compostable plates, cups and paper napkins are collected by the DOS everyday.

●What are the brown bins at the curb outside the school?

The brown bins are for the City's Organics Program, which collects food waste and food-soiled paper to be turned into compost.

●Doesn't PS58 already have a recycling program?

Mandatory school recycling was made law in 2010. Several attempts have been made to institute a school-wide recycling program. TeamGreen will broaden these efforts until the school has full compliance, or the recycling of 90% of the trash it generates.

●What does the TeamGreen recycling initiative look like?

Every classroom will have a standardized recycling station for paper and landfill trash. The classrooms will house this trash until the day of collection so as not to store it in the schoolyard. Food waste and GMPC (glass, metal, plastics & cartons) will be taken to the recycling station at the end of each hall.

All offices will have a recycling station. Hall stations and the Main Office will have bins for paper, GMPC, Organics and landfill trash. The cafeteria will continue to recycle its food and GMPC waste with an eye to full compliance.

TEAMGREEN FAQs were distributed to address concerns regarding the school's history with recycling and its goals going forward.

What to Recycle and Where

PAPER

any paper that can rip
cardboard
envelopes w/ cellophane windows
magazines
cardboard packaging
cereal boxes
padded envelopes (w/out plastic)
stapled paper ok
coffee cups (dry and preferably rinsed)
pizza boxes
paper towel/toilet tissue rolls
waxed paper

DO NOT RECYCLE:

bubble-padded envelopes→Landfill
books→Reuse
soiled paper napkins→Organics
soft paper/tissue→Landfill

GLASS, METAL, PLASTIC, CARTONS (GMPC)

glass bottles
plastic bottles, jugs & containers
plastic lids & caps
plastic clam shells
plastic cups
plastic straws
plastic flatware
plastic or metal hangers
aluminum foil
cans
any metal container
aerosol cans
yogurt cups/containers
juice/milk cartons
coffee cup lids

DO NOT RECYCLE:

broken glass→Landfill
electronics→special depository days
batteries→Landfill
paint cans→Landfill
squeeze tubs & pouches →Landfill

ORGANICS

food scraps
meat
bones
dairy
prepared foods
food-soiled paper/napkins & paper plates
brown paper bags
candy

DO NOT RECYCLE:

plastic film wrap→Landfill
plastic ziplock bags→Landfill
plastic flatware→GMPC
styrofoam cups/clam shells→Landfill

LANDFILL

plastic shopping bags
plastic ziplock bags
plastic film wrap
chip bags
candy wrappers
styrofoam
latex gloves
dry pens
dry markers
pencils
gum

Contact: 58TeamGreen@gmail.com

The school quickly came to recognize that successful recycling is really a matter of good waste **SEPARATION**. Classroom demonstrations were given to educate students and teachers about proper separation of recyclables. Signage was created to help students sort correctly to eliminate contamination between recyclables.

PS 58 Green Guidelines

Our goal is to significantly reduce the amount of landfill trash generated by the P.S. 58 community. We will do this by implementing a viable building-wide recycling system overseen by students, and creating a culture where teachers, staff, and parents are equally invested in the thoughtful use and appropriate disposal of resources and materials. Learning how to take care of our planet is a vital part of our children's education as responsible citizens. Read below to find out how you and your students can be part of this important initiative.

The trash housed in the schoolyard is OUR trash — 90% of it can be eliminated when our community properly reduces, reuses and recycles its trash. Because the City of New York is advancing its program of recycling in schools it has changed how it picks up our trash: no longer will they collect everything everyday. They have instituted a collection schedule that requires schools to recycle. In addition the school was elected to participate in the "Organics" program where all food, paper boats, and napkins can be collected everyday for composting.

Today each classroom will receive a tall blue bin for paper recycling and a small black bin for trash with appropriate decals and signage. Please create a recycling station in your classroom and talk to your students about our initiative. **Paper will be picked up from the classroom Monday, Wednesday and Friday.** Only paper can go into the paper bin. Please adhere to the poster guidelines—they help a lot! There will be no pick up on Tuesday and Thursday. If the class generates more paper than it can house on the off days then it is to be taken to the paper bin at the end of the hall. Any food waste or glass, metal, plastic or cartons (GMPC) generated during the day should be taken to the appropriate bin at the end of the hall. Please note there are to be no glass bottles or containers used in the school. We encourage you to add classroom Captains to your jobs chart. Captains can oversee proper adherence and take any "Organics" or GMPC to the bins stationed in the halls at the end of the school day.

Classroom Snacks and Parties:

Labeled buckets for Organics and GMPC bins are stored in the hall closets where janitors keep supplies. These buckets/bins can be enlisted for waste generated at class events. (Remember compostable plates and cups and all napkins can be put in with organics. Staples makes a great Compostable hot cup. And Chinet makes great plates -- both small and large -- and bowls.) At the end of the party buckets/bins can be taken and emptied at the hall recycling stations. Please return buckets and bins clean to the hall closets.

Classroom parents and a class captain can be appointed to ensure the proper disposal of the often significant amount of trash that is generated at these events.

Lesson plans and hands-on projects can be found on the NYC's **Recycling Curriculum** page.

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Any questions, feedback, ideas please contact **58TeamGreen@gmail.com**

PS58 GREEN GUIDELINES were distributed throughout the school community.



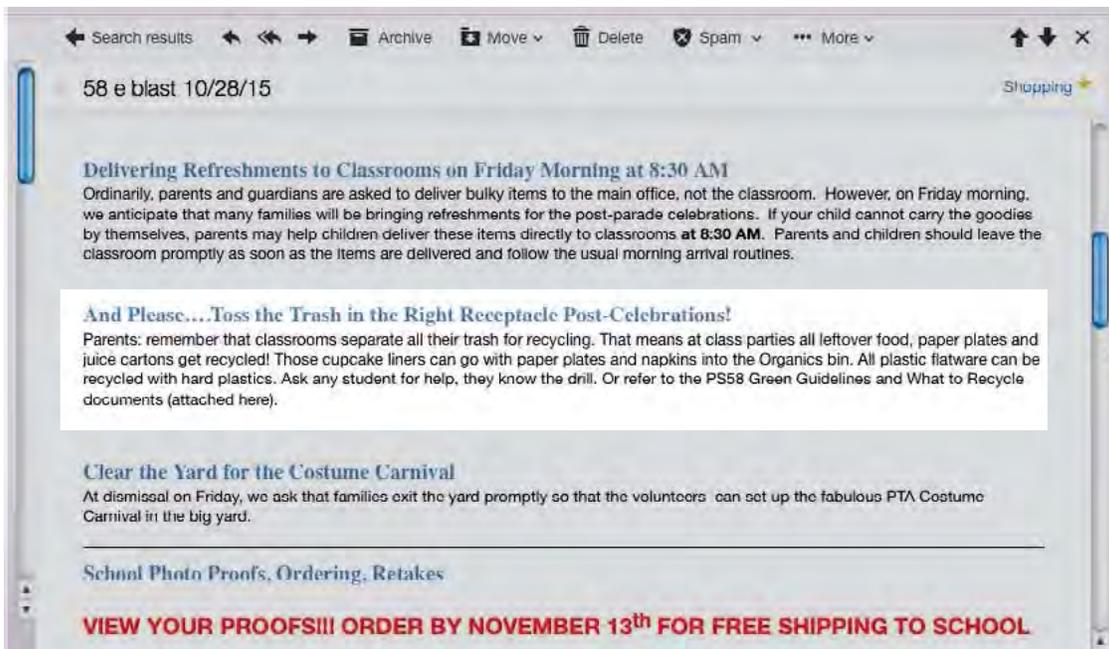
Parent volunteers attended lunchroom cycles to help streamline separation and made aprons for the **STUDENT CAPTAINS** who helped monitor.



PS58 has a very active parent body with many **IN-SCHOOL EVENTS** and fundraisers that include regular movie nights where food is sold. Recycling Stations were set up for such events and parent volunteers monitored separation and helped to educate parents about the school's efforts.



PS58 became part of the **ORGANICS PROGRAM** in 2014 and received compostable trays in 2015 in lieu of the styrofoam trays that had been used. Styrofoam trays that were put out for trash collection were donated to the Bishop Mugavero Center for Geriatric Care and the Cobble Hill Health Center in the school's greater neighborhood.

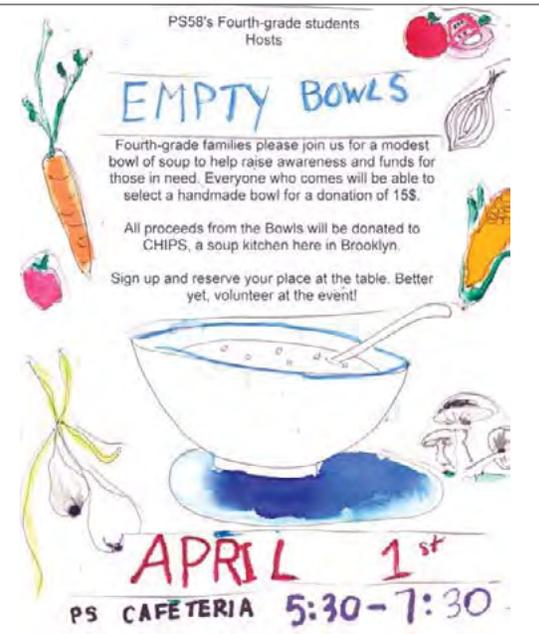


PARENT COMMUNICATIONS via backpack mail and eblasts kept parents informed of the school's goals and progress.

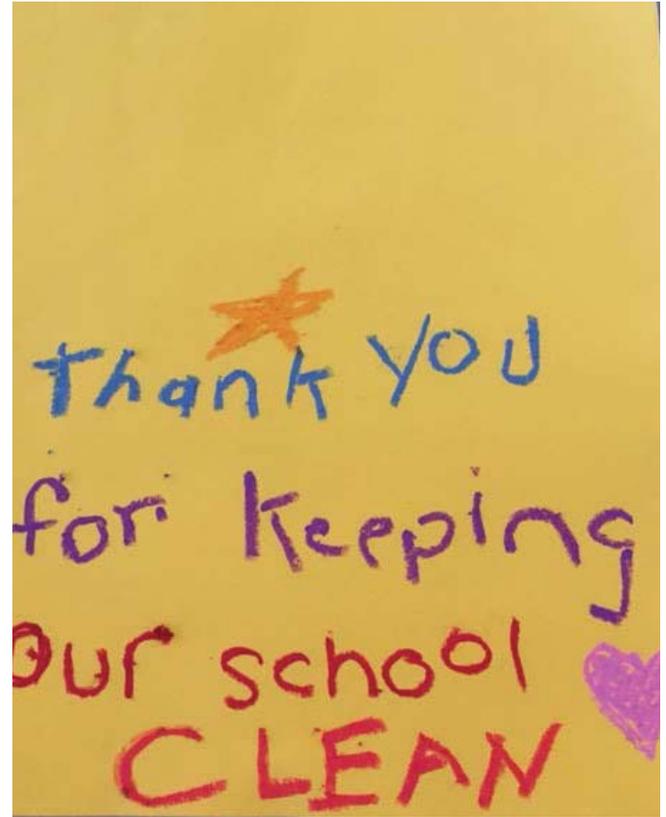


STUDENT INVOLVEMENT

Besides being Classroom and Cafeteria Recycling Captains, the PS58 students competed in the **CLASSROOM RECYCLING CHALLENGE**. Winning classrooms eliminated plastic water bottles by bringing in their own canteens, used plastic table service that they reused and washed in lieu of disposable plates and cups. They explored ways to reduce paper use and created great sustainability signage on used cardboard.



In 2015 the Art Department began the **EMPTY BOWLS** initiative where 4th graders made clay bowls that they sold at an event where soup was sold to the school community. Proceeds were given to a local Soup Kitchen. This initiative has become an annual event.



PS58 students declared a **CUSTODIAN APPRECIATION DAY**, made cards to express their gratitude for the neat and clean school they use everyday.



Through an initiative to create a **STRONGER LOCAL COMMUNITY** six PS58 TeamGreen students took their knowledge and experience of recycling to the neighboring private school, Hannah Senesh, and made a presentation to their entire 6th grade. The team explained how to set up a recycling station and how to separate trash into each of four bins that they carried to the school. They then asked the Hannah Senesh students to separate their trash into the bins. Hannah Senesh students were left with a performance of TeamGreen's Recycle song and a "Recycle More Waste Less" DSNY T-shirt!

March 14, 2016

Dear Pen Pal,

Hi! I'm Grace. What's your name? I go to P.S. 58 in Brooklyn, New York. My school has been working on doing better things for the earth. What does your school do to make the world a better place?

My school has a HUGE recycling program. Our green team has made sure that we are composting and recycling properly at lunch. We also use compostable lunch trays for school lunch. We also try and reuse as many materials as possible. We have a bin of paper labeled "Twice is Nice." It has already been used on one side but there is still room on the other side. We also recycle crayons and make seed paper.

Hope to see a letter from you soon,

Grace!!

4/12/16

Dear Grace,

My name is Ellie I'm 10 years old. My school has been a green school since I was in P-K. We are a gold level for being a healthy school. At school we compost, in our class and outside, we recycle bins and we also have different bins for all our trash and recycle. We also have compostable lunch trays like you. We use paper to take notes and other things with scratch paper which is like flyers or other things that we did not need.

From,

Ellie

The PS58 Science Department has teamed up with the FoodPrint Group, a farm-to-food-waste food systems planning company, to **PEN PAL** with 5th graders at the Hamilton public school in Chicago. Students were able to share their experiences with recycling and sustainability issues and trade ideas.



PROMOTION

To generate school spirit and encourage best practices in the school community PS58 TeamGreen worked with the after-school Urban Youth Chorus to write a song based on Aretha Franklin's "Respect." TeamGreen's version is called **R-E-C-Y-C-L-E.**

[PLEASE CLICK HERE TO VIEW](#)

[HTTPS://VIMEO.COM/163421161](https://vimeo.com/163421161)



For Earth Day PS58 students painted flags to hang with their Earth Day Pledge of **ZERO WASTE** at 58 banner that hangs in the schoolyard. Children painted their wishes, prayers and gratitude for the Earth on their flags.



COLLABORATION

We collaborated with **WEARABLE COLLECTIONS** to collect used clothing and shoes for continued use in the larger community. Wearable Collections is a NYC based company focused on keeping clothing, textiles and shoes out of landfills while generating funds for charities. Together PS58 Team Green was able to collect 100 bags, approximately one ton! of shoes and clothing.

We visited **PS29** in Brooklyn and were hosted by parent coordinator Rhonda Keyser. We toured the school's common areas and their recycling set-ups, witnessed lunch hour collection of organics and recyclables. TeamGreen learned a lot about what works best for a successful recycling program.

Kate Wimsatt from the **RECYCLING CHAMPIONS** Program at Grow NYC was very helpful in getting us off on the right foot with proper signage and set ups.

Worked with **GIRL SCOUT TROOP 2440** to collect Electronic Waste for Recycling. Together the school was able to collect 260 items of old electronics for recycling.

PS 58 Recycling Quiz

File Edit View Insert Slide Format Arrange Tools Table Help All changes saved in Drive Present Comments

Background... Layout... Theme... Transition...

PS 58 Recycling Quiz

1 PS 58 Recycling Quiz

2

3

4 In the paper can!

5

6 With the plastic!

Effects of Pollution on the Dissolved Oxygen (O₂) in the Gowanus Canal

When sewage is discharged into the canal, bacteria also uses up lots of oxygen and prevents sun light from reaching the oxygen producing aquatic plants.

Elevated water temperature can also affect the levels of O₂ available for breathing.

- Pollution kills eggs, microscopic animals that larger animals depend on for food.
- It causes algae blooms that use up lots of oxygen in the water lowering the oxygen available for aquatic animals.
- Slow moving and stagnant water can also reduce the levels of O₂ in the water.

Gowanus Canal Field Observation Sheet Name: Shanna Matar 4/20/16

What do you see?	List and Describe: What? Type? Where?, How many? Big? Small? Color... Action: What's happening? What is it doing or what are they doing?	Location: In the Canal, On the water, in the water, by the banks of the canal, other.
Animals: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Birds • Aquatic Animals • Reptiles • Other 	Pison Sparrow fishing duck (2+) (1+ others)	Canal Street Bridge
Plants: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Trees • Shrubs • Weeds • Flowered Plants 	tree algae grass	Canal Street bridge
Built Environment: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Structures - Buildings (What type?, What is it used for?) • Homes • Garbage • Bridges • Homes • Businesses 	Lots of trash Washie APRETS part Sewer Hole Coins	Canal Street bridge

EDUCATIONAL COMPONENTS

4th and 5th graders were given lessons in **RECYCLING IN SCIENCE** class as they were to become mentors to the lower grades. A slide show was given showing appropriate separation techniques, as well as the larger implications of good stewardship.

Science classes conducted a **GOWANUS WALK** where they studied pH and water quality. Students were able to learn about how pollution affects our waterways and the measures that are necessary to clean it up. Prevention is the watchword: Keep our waters clean:
 Recycle • Reduce • Reuse • Respect.

School lunch data

How many compost trays are used in a week?

1	People eating lunch	200
2	200	200
3	200	200
4	200	200
5	200	200
6	200	200
7	200	200
8	200	200
9	200	200
10	200	200
11	200	200
12	200	200
13	200	200
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38	200	200
39	200	200
40	200	200
41	200	200
42	200	200
43	200	200
44	200	200
45	200	200
46	200	200
47	200	200
48	200	200
49	200	200
50	200	200

1,100 trays are used in a week

How much more is the amount of kids in the school than the amount of kids who eat school lunch on Thursdays?

990 kids in the school
200 kids eat school lunch on Thursday

$$\frac{990}{200} = 4.95$$

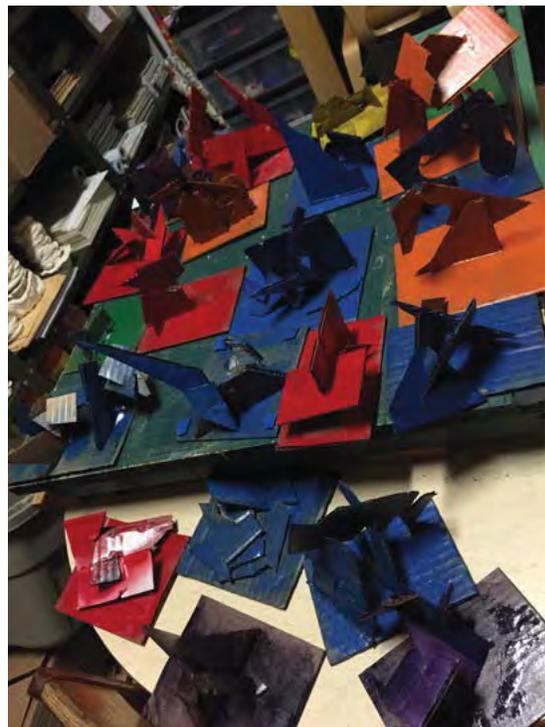
The amount of kids in the school is 4.95 times the amount of kids who eat school lunch on Thursday

How much more is the amount of kids in the school than the amount of kids who eat school lunch on Fridays?

990 kids in the school
300 kids eat school lunch on Friday

$$\frac{990}{300} = 3.3$$

The amount of kids in the school is 3.3 times the amount of kids who eat school lunch on Friday



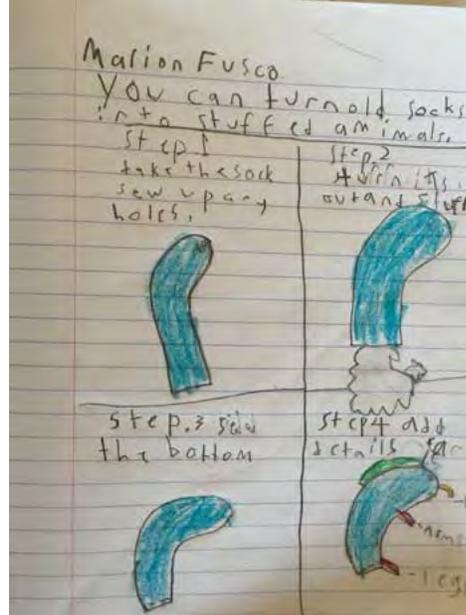
PS58 **MATH OLYMPIANS** worked on various recycling data to learn how the school has improved its recycling output and made comparisons of the different classes of recycling.

First graders have been using recycled materials for **ART PROJECTS.**





POLLUTION PATROL was an early morning extended day club for Kindergarten at PS 58. In general our mission was to help clean-up PS 58, improve recycling and think of new ways to reduce the trash at PS 58. It was an extended effort to get paper recycling in classrooms and compostable trays and paper boats in the cafeteria. Up-cycled used paper to make bookmarks, note pads and necklaces. Items were sold to the school community and enough money was raised to buy cherry trees! Those trees were planted in the school's side garden by the Kindergarten entrance.



EARTH DAY has been an important event since 2007. This year students created a banner made from old sheets and doanted fabrics for the schoolyard to declare their goal for Earth Day: Zero Waste at 58!

Other Earth Day activiities included a **THIRD GRADE RECYCLE UNIT**: Why is recycling and reusing important? What are some ideas you have for how you can recycle and reuse at home or at school? After discussion and written work students made their own recycled crayons.

For the second year the students have coordinated a bake sale for their **SAVE THE TIGERS** campaign to raise money for the care of the Malayan tigers at the Bronx Zoo. They also released **LADY BUGS** to benefit the First Place Garden along the south side of the School.

PROJECT ANALYSIS

WHAT WORKED:

We recognized that the garbage in the schoolyard was a result of not having a **RECYCLING SYSTEM** in place. Through our recycling efforts we were able to put recyclables out for collection on day they were to be collected.

Students embraced recycling and made it part of their school identity. **CLASSROOM RECYCLING** became direct responsibility of students with Class Captains monitoring compliance.

CAFETERIA RECYCLING became regimented with parent recycling volunteers and student Recycling Captains overseeing separation.

SCHOOL EVENTS enlisted parent Recycling Coordinators as part of the jobs list for Sign-Ups. Recycling stations were put in place with a parent monitor to help with separation and clean-up at each event.

WHAT DIDN'T WORK:

While the school has done a great job learning how to separate and recycle our trash we need to do more to **REDUCE** the amount of trash we generate.

Children are great recyclers. School is their home away from home. But **ADULTS** still need a lot of direction. The school needs to **DEVELOP AWARENESS** around the school's recycling program.

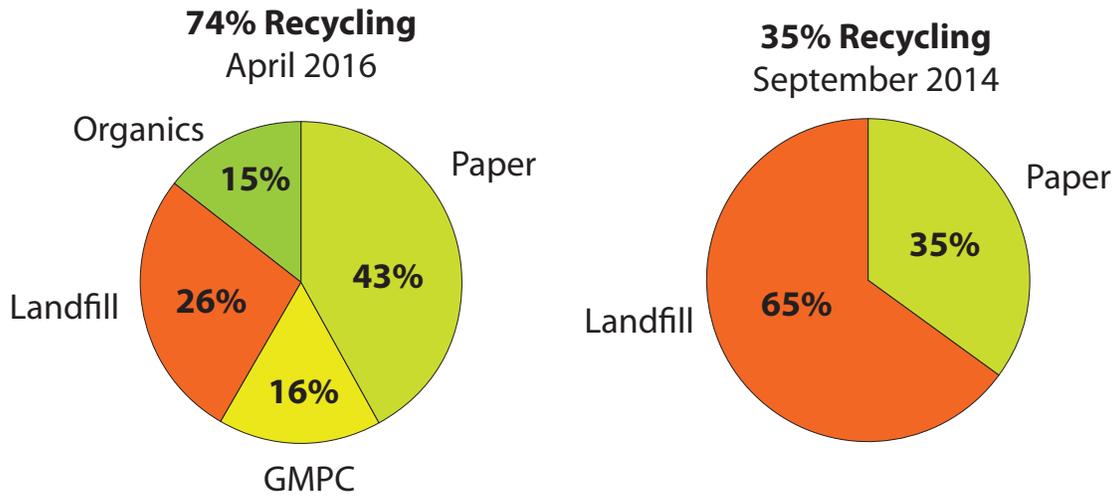
PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT would be a key piece to deepening compliance and drawing connections to larger issues of sustainability school-wide.

APPLICABILITY:

BUILD ON YOUR STRENGTHS. Each school has its own set of unique assets. We are a very creative and idea-driven school that has embraced recycling through a myriad projects and learning opportunities. Another school could be more sports-driven. Recycling could be a team sport! Some schools are intensely academic, which presents all kinds of opportunities to study recycling and its ramifications.

CELEBRATE YOUR SUCCESSES and keep persevering. Children want to do the right thing...they only need the opportunity. Make recycling a center point of learning.

A school community is made up of a whole set of different groups: custodial, administration, faculty, students, parents and care-givers. We have shown that just as we all hold the children's interests paramount, we can **FORWARD OUR INTERESTS** to serve the larger community as a model, and the environment as a global citizen.



MEASURING SUCCESS:

In 2016 PS58 has reduced Landfill trash by **MORE THAN 50 PERCENT** in the last year. While we started the 2015 school year with the Organics program most all of it was contaminated with other trash. Cardboard was successfully separated for recycling, but only a small portion of our paper trash was sorted for recycling. Only a small portion of GMPC that the school generated was set out for recycling.

NOW A FULL 74 PERCENT of our trash is separated for recycling. We have a solid basis for going forward to increase our recyclables and reduce our trash generation overall.

