

Green Team Activities

It is important for schools to have a Green Team. By actively engaging kids in student led initiatives, they develop life long sustainable behaviors. The green team can be headed by any interested parent or teacher willing to commit just a few hours each month. Here is an outline created for Gill Elementary School Green Team in 2011-2012 school year.

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| October | Limited Resources | Hersey Kisses. Pass out kisses calling them nonrenewable resources. "Run out" half way through and stop to explain renewable vs. non renewable. Show pictures of different types of energy and extraction processes to illustrate differences. |
| November | America Recycles Day | Feature "How To Recycle" video, created by green team in the morning. Conduct school wide recycling demonstration during recess teaching kids how to sort recyclables and develop understanding of materials. |
| December | Watershed Presentation | MSU graduate Jessica Getchum, presented watershed slide show and conducted experiments with students to illustrate contamination. Students learn about water table, impact of human activity and solutions for reducing pollutants. |
| January | Decomposition Timeline (aka Garage Graveyard) | Students analyze life of common everyday stuff we use and length of time it lasts in landfill. Develop understanding of importance of waste reduction and how "wastefulness" leads to negative consequences on planet. |
| February | Adopt An Endangered Animal | Students bring stuffed animals to school for 25¢ donation towards endangered animals. Partner with media specialist to conduct focus on reading on endangered animals to enhance student understanding regarding why animals are becoming extinct. |
| March | Energy Conservation & Celebrate Earth Hour on March 31st | Students celebrate Earth Hour by turning off all household electricity for 1 hour http://www.earthhour.org/ Learn about home energy consumption. Send home Free DTE Energy Audit information for families to help reduce energy costs and support families. Make door draft tubes to prevent heat loss at home. |
| April | Earth Day Playground Recycling fundraiser | Playground Water Bottle Recycling Bin Fundraiser. Students will donate \$ for recycling bin and in return receive a reusable water bottle. (Pending grant funding pending). The goal is to enhance awareness that recycling is important while providing school with a much needed recycling bin. |
| May | Student Garden & Nutrition: Understanding the food we eat. | Student Gardens are a multi faceted project where various classrooms, Garden Club, Boy Scouts, Green Team and families contribute to preparing, planting and maintaining garden. Garden Club meets monthly to work on garden. Green Team Activity: members learn about food chain, importance of eating healthy and incorporating fresh produce into diet. Study how to apply cafeteria compost and benefits. Students prepared garden beds and planted seeds. |
| June | End of the year party | |