

The Green Team Gazette

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Welcome to Our World!

Greetings! Welcome to **The Green Team Gazette!** This came to be based on several paths coming together with a similar mission in mind: to spread the news about a variety of environmental ways we can help our local, national, and global world. While working to create a totally eco-friendly FallFest '08 this October, Gibson Island Country School was looking for a company that might be able to put our logo on a stainless steel water bottle in order to have a healthier (and reusable) alternative to plastic. A web search, a phone call, and a shared mission brought Riley Hoffer and 100 CGKidz stainless steel water bottles to our school. Riley's visit helped to open our eyes about plastic bottles and safer alternatives. It also added more insight and inspiration into the existing environmental program at our Maryland Green School. With a similar mindset to CynerGreen's co-founder Danelle Hoffer, Gibson Island Country School is here to help assist you in growing your program too.

It's all about being aware & making decisions!

Ask yourself: What can we do to help the planet?



The Green Team Gazette

is a publication co-sponsored by the founders of CynerGreen, CGKidz, and Gibson Island Country School, a Green School in Pasadena, Maryland. Our mission is to educate and share ways to "go green"—both big and small—and be environmentally-proactive at home, in school, and beyond. It is written by Vicki Dabrowka, and edited by Danelle Hoffer. Additional contributors include: G.I.C.S. Science Teacher Tim Decker; G.I.C.S. Head of School Laura Kang; CGKidz creator, twelve-year old Riley Hoffer. To learn more visit www.cynergreen.com, www.cgkidz.com, and www.gics.org.



What Size is That Footprint?

There is a Turkish saying that goes "Before you love, learn to run through the snow leaving no footprint." The same goes with caring for our planet. Of course, unless you live in Alaska or it's the deep of winter, the footprint you leave behind isn't necessarily in the snow. The footprint we all leave behind, whether it's in the sand, snow, carpet, or welcome mat is called our **carbon footprint**. With it, do you see it like you see a muddy shoe print on the white tile? No. But, the planet feels it based on the choices you make daily. Factors that affect your carbon footprint include:

- ♻️ How much trash do you make?
- ♻️ How much do you recycle?
- ♻️ How much electricity do you use (and waste)?
- ♻️ Do you eat meat or veggies or lots of individually wrapped snacks?
- ♻️ How far did your food travel to get to you?
- ♻️ How much water and gas do you use (and waste)?



To learn more about carbon footprint, or even to figure your own out, visit one of these websites and use their online Carbon Footprint Calculators:

- 🌐 www.conservation.org (go to "Act," then "Live Green" and "Your Carbon Calculator")
- 🌐 http://www.zerofootprintkids.com/kids_home.aspx
- 🌐 www.epa.gov/climatechange/emissions/ind_calculator.html

Greening Your School Routine

Here are 5 easy ways to get started going green:

1. Move away from 1 waste basket. Aim for 3:
 - one for paper recycling;
 - one for plastic, glass, and aluminum;
 - and one for trash (the only one with a liner).Get your students to make daily decisions!
2. Recycle used/empty computer ink cartridges.
3. Make a bin to start recycling old cell phones.
4. Begin collecting empty glue sticks/glue bottles. Elmer's Glue and Walmart are working together to collect glue containers. For more information, go to: <http://www.elmersgluecrew.com/>
5. Go online to <http://www.terracycle.net/dpb/dpb.htm> and sign up for the Juice Pouch Brigade to recycle Capri Sun (and other) juice pouches.