

The Green Team Gazette

Volume 2, Issue 3, page 1

November 2009

Looking For Info? Type 911

Curious as to where the best place is to dispose of your plastic templates for your Halloween jack-o'-lanterns, the batteries from trick-or-treating flashlight, or the upcoming foil pan you're planning to use at Thanksgiving? Let your fingers do the walking so you can find a more eco-friendly place to deposit them than your trash and your local landfill. A quick visit to <http://earth911.com/> will give you your answer.

Founded in 1991, Earth 911 serves as a massive recycling directory, boasting of having over 100,000 recycling centers just a click away. In the search bar on their website, type in the material you wish to recycle and your zip code. Then Earth911 will search its database to find nearby drop off centers that take what you are looking to offload. There are also links for small business owners wishing to go green, as well as a widget function that allows you to put their database on your website. The 3 R's just got easier!



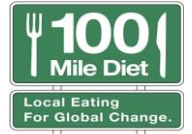
Websites to Be Grateful For

After you've finished checking out the Earth 911 database, don't stop there! Feast on these sites if you are looking to add more green info to your diet:

- <http://www.thegreenparent.com>
- <http://www.treehugger.com>
- <http://www.coolpeoplecare.org>



100 Mile Diet



It's amazing what you find on a nighttime TV melodrama. Last year, on a Thanksgiving episode of the former NBC show "Lipstick Jungle," Brooke Shields' character was hot on the trail of the ingredients for her Thanksgiving feast, wanting them to come within a 100 mile radius. Obviously she had read Alisa Smith's & J.B. MacKinnon's book The 100-Mile Diet: A Year of Local Eating (2007). In the book, these two detail their year of eating locally-grown/produced foods in a biographical style. Especially given that most of us have food on our dinner table that has traveled as far as 1,500 miles to get to our plate, freshness isn't always our friend, yet preservatives are of ten plentiful. How healthy is that? Both in the book and detailed on their website www.100milediet.org, Smith & MacKinnon give tips about seasonal eating, food variety, finding your nearest farmers' market, promoting your local economy, and cutting down on the fuel-usage needed when food comes from far away.

Thanksgiving, with it being the time of feast and plenty, might be the perfect time to experiment, possibly even starting a new family tradition. There's a whole section on this website dedicated to celebrating the heritage of the holiday, a "getting started guide," & a link where you can pledge to get food from within range for either a meal, a week of meals, or more. There's also a mapping tool where you can discover what your 100-mile radius looks like just by entering a zip code or city name. What will you be having for dinner—whether it's tonight or Turkey Day? No matter if it is merely "food for thought" or a major life-changing challenge, you can learn a lot here about geography and what food-finds are in your neck of the woods.

Also by this duo:

Plenty: Eating Locally on the 100-Mile Diet (2008) also published as Plenty: One Man, One Woman, and a Raucous Year of Eating Locally (2007)



Perspectives to Ponder

"If you want one year of prosperity, plant corn.
If you want ten years of prosperity, plant trees.
If you want one hundred years of prosperity,
educate people." — *Chinese proverb*

"What we do today, right now,
will have an accumulated effect on all of our tomorrows."
— *Alexandra Stoddard, author*

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.



Please print on recycled paper.

The Green Team Gazette

Volume 2, Issue 3, page 2

November 2009

March To Stop Global Warming

In the 1960's, people came together to march on Washington, DC as a way to spread their message about their cause.



The age of technology has inspired "the virtual march." This is a march and a message you can do in the comfort of your own home. Share your voice by visiting <http://www.stopglobalwarming.org/> to tell national leaders that there is a need to reduce carbon emissions. This non-partisan site helps us all take part in something big. While there, click on the **video** link for featured videos. Some are funny, some celebrity-filled, some musical...yet all are enlightening. Likewise, click the **classroom** link for 20+ ideas of what you can do in the classroom to educate about climate change.



Take Time to Be Thankful, Take Time to Be Tolerant

Being thankful means appreciating what you have. It includes counting your blessings--finding them to be "enough." It means not wishing for what your neighbor has. It means being content--not jealous or cluttered with negativity. It includes being patient and being tolerant of others--especially those people who are different from you. Thanksgiving is a time to celebrate togetherness. Family. That "family" includes the people in our house, those who are our relatives, those who are our neighbors, and those who share our planet.

During this season of harvest and thanks, the United Nations celebrates **the International Day of Tolerance** each year on **November 16th**. Improving the environment is more than mere ecology, but stems from personal attitudes as well!

Kids: For online activities, visit Planet Tolerance at <http://www.tolerance.org/pt/index.html>

Teachers: For classroom resources and free lessons on how to build a more open, accepting community, visit <http://www.tolerance.org/teach/index.jsp>

Parents: For a breakdown of activities or books by age groups (as well as ways to approach certain issues), visit <http://www.tolerance.org/parents/index.jsp>

Teens: For something just your size & style, visit <http://www.tolerance.org/teens/index.jsp>

Read, Then Recycle



It's not every day that an author of a book actually encourages you to do away with his book, but that is the premise of the newly edited book by Dan Gutman, Recycle This Book: 100 Top Children's Book Authors Tell You How To Go Green (2009). Inside, one hundred well-known authors speak from their hearts, giving their thoughts about big and little things that they do for the Earth; things that you can too. Written for kids aged 8-12 years old, its message is straightforward, with humor and wisdom combined. Dan Gutman sets the stage in the book's Foreword, showing how vital one person--one *kid*--can be in making a difference. By "recycling" the book (or, sharing it) with three friends, who share it with three friends, who share it...little actions can lead to big results and teaching each other. In addition to the perspectives of 100 well-known authors, there's also a hearty list of eco-websites at the end of the book.

Here are just a few ways you can incorporate this book into your classroom curriculum:

- Encourage older readers to pick it up and read it for themselves!
- Use all or part of it as a read-aloud. (My favorite essays include "Drinking Dog Water" by Peg Kehret, "I Zapped My TV Set" by Bruce Coville, "The Garbologist" by Matt Tavares, and "Stamp Out Witches' Drawers" by Jon Scieszka).
- Encourage your class of young authors' to answer the book's key concept: "How Do We Save the Planet?" Read Dan Gutman's Foreword and several selections to serve as brainstorming. Then release your students into the world of green writing.
- The essays in this book serve as excellent examples for the "6 + 1 Writing Traits." Challenge your crew to determine which traits really shine per piece. Which ones showcase ideas, voice, word choice, sentence fluency, organization (complete with a "grabber" at the beginning &/or a solid wrap up at the end), conventions (or mechanics) plus that last one: presentation?
- Students might find a writer within the book to whom they really relate, or might find a writer's style worth further investigation. The ideas in this book might be just the ones that help a student find his or her new favorite author from just their short eco-snippet!

This book is a quick, insightful read that perhaps might be the perfect light reading during your Thanksgiving break!