

The Green Team Gazette

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Re: New Year's Resolutions



Young or old, New Years brings about the desire to make New Year's resolutions. New game plans. Fresh starts. They come in all shapes and sizes--it's the

desire to eat healthier, exercise more, spend less, strive for better grades, work harder, be kinder. Those new goals give life zest and aim in the deep of winter. Perfect timing, right after the holidays!

At the root of "resolution," what do you see? **SOLUTION.** What's the point of a "resolution?" To make a new solution to an existing problem. To solve "it" (whatever "it" is) again. "Resolve" (the root word of "resolution") also has another meaning: to make a firm decision, often times with conviction. What a great idea to face the problems of our planet this new year with new solutions, & with firm dedications. With all the talk on the news and in product commercials these days, it's pretty clear that we need to embark on some of these new solutions with a definite, positive resolve!!

What kind of green resolutions can you, your class, or your family make this year? As with anything, it starts with baby steps, each one leading you further along your path...each one leading you to a darker shade of green.

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.



 Printed on Recycled Paper

Other Rockin' "RE" Words

Redefine what it means to throw things away.



Recycle paper, glass, aluminum, plastic (it takes 700 years to break down plastic water bottles in a landfill, fill the recycle center instead). **Recycle** other cool things too:

glue sticks (<http://www.elmersgluecrew.com/>),

juice pouches (www.terracycle.net), Aveda caps

(<http://aveda.aveda.com/aboutaveda/caps.asp>),

plastic grocery bags at your nearby grocery store, your used items in a garage sale!

Reuse what you can by giving new life to what's in your closet. Mix & match old stuff with new items you got for Christmas.

Reduce your clutter and clean out closets, homework folders, backpacks. How can you eliminate some of your extra stuff, your energy use, your wasted water, and wasted electricity.

Replace just one light bulb with a compact florescent light bulb to save energy one light at a time.

Remember to...turn out the lights, stop a leaky faucet, sort your trash from your recycling, take out your recycling.

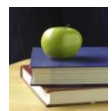
Remind your friends, family, faculty, neighbors, and co-workers to do what they can to eliminate waste.

Respect. It all starts here. Ask yourself: How am I respecting the planet? Is there anything else I can do?

Responsibility—it's yours! Look for ways that you can make a difference. Do that!

Repeat—do it again & again! **Repeat** it loudly; spread the word!

Our Eco-Book Nook



No matter what shade of green you're wearing: a pale shade of lime, a vivid kelly, asparagus, jade, olive, or forest green, here is a book you'll love to share with your classroom or your family:

Michael Recycle by Ellie Bethel (2008)

Here's a superhero our planet will love—and one our planet surely needs. Fighting garbage heaps left and right (with a makeshift hat of a reusable colander atop his head), Michael Recycle is here to save the day, rhyming all the way. What better way could there be to get the message out there to 4–8+ year olds. We've got to mash the trash and make a better plan across our land. This picture book and its lively rhymes will have you and your environmental friends recycling in no time!

Be on the lookout for the sequel, due March 2009:

Michael Recycle Meets Litterbug Doug.

