

The Green Team Gazette

Volume 1, Issue 7

Summer 2009

Summer Vacation

Summer time—and the living is easy with picnics, ball games, barbecues, swimming pools, trips, & oh-so lazy days. But, teachers & parents alike are educators, a job that never stops—not even when on vacation. For many of us (even if we are still working), it is during summer vacation that our minds are whirring to read good books, learn new things, or making plans for the future life of our fall classroom and our family.



The "R's" of Summer



Going beyond the "3 R's" of the Eco-friendly World ("Reduce, Reuse, and Recycle"), the summer has some of its own "R's" to consider:

- ☑ **Relax & Restore**—After a busy school year, everyone needs to take a breather, kick back, catch up on that sleep & restore/renew our energy.
- ☑ **Reflect & Revisit**—Look back at your year, environmentally-speaking. What worked? What didn't? Where can you grow? What can you let go? Celebrate the strides you made, and eliminate what you don't want to do anymore.
- ☑ **Reinvigorate & Re-energize**—Most teachers & students have a little bit of flexibility when it comes to their summer schedule. How do you want to use that time to go forward on your eco-plans? What new is worth investigating? What inspires you to darken your current shade of green?

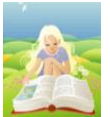
Summer Sipping

Looking to inspire your school recycling program in a bigger way? It might be time to look into collecting & recycling juice pouches. You know them as those silver, juice-filled containers of Capri Sun™, Honest Kids™, Kool-Aid Jammers®, etc. Deciding to upcycle & reduce waste, TerraCycle linked with Honest Kids™ & Capri Sun™ to make new items such as backpacks, tote bags, pencil bags, & Christmas tree skirts from juice pouches. As a school, join the juice pouch brigade! Send in your rinsed juice pouches. Not only will it help to keep billions of pouches out of the trash, but TerraCycle will donate 2¢ for every Capri Sun™/Honest Kids™ (& 1¢ for all other brands) to the charity/school of your choice. By Christmas 2008, our school had kept 2,938 juice pouches out of the trash. By the end of the school year, we'd collected 6,014 juice pouches. To learn more, see www.terracycle.net.



Summer Reading List

Perhaps not your "summer beach read," but here are some easy-to-digest reads for adults looking to learn more about their world & ways to counter our environmental impact.



- 🌱 **Green Chic: Saving the Earth in Style by Christie Matheson:** Marrying humor, fashion, facts, & eco-savvy commentary, Matheson takes readers on a ride through the ease of making more environmentally-friendly choices. Written from one girl to another, the witty spirit of the book could probably be appreciated by all. It will leave you chuckling in places, & eager to be more planetarily pro-active!
- 🌱 **Everything Goes With Green by Sloan Barnett**
Check out all aspects of Green & Clean—using the contents, you can find out more about what it means to be: scary clean -vs- safe clean...& what it means to have a clean body, clean baby, clean food, clean water, clean air, & clean energy. Fun (& sometimes frightening) facts galore for you to store!
- 🌱 **The Down To Earth Guide to Global Warming by Laurie David & Cambria Gordon:** Entertaining & directed at kids, this is a super book to share with older elementary students (& beyond). Defining many terms associated with global warming, this book empowers & urges kids to research & take action!
- 🌱 **True Green Kids: 100 Things You Can Do to Save the Planet by Kim McKay & Jenny Bonnin:** 100 strategies (and darn-near that many websites) aimed at helping everyone build a better planet. Activities of all sizes abound, & it is a book from which you will take away many practical ideas. A great resource for any school library!

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 100%
recycled paper