



ONE
STEP



The digital newsletter of the Environmental Action Team

*It takes 375mls of water to make three sheets of A4 paper
so please think before printing this newsletter ☺*

April 2016

Hi and welcome to the second edition of the newsletter for 2016.

Wow, hasn't the year started with a bang! We are almost at the end of term already and it's exciting to see all of our achievements over the last 11 weeks! The Environmental Action Team has been very busy. Notably, we have had a focus on litter in the school grounds and the issue of using the correct bins to ensure that our waste has minimal impact on the environment. What did you learn from our Student Voice session? We are also well on our way to achieving our goal of reduced paper wastage within the school due to a variety of strategies. Our 2016 Green Team also met for the first time last week and we are feeling motivated by the possible projects that they will participate in throughout the year to achieve our goal of a more sustainable GGHS.

We would also like to share the good news that our Site Environmental Management Plan (SEMP) is also being used in an upcoming NRM Education presentation in America as ours is the best example of a secondary SEM available. Huge congratulations to all those involved!

Sports Day: A Zero Waste Event (Nearly!)

That's right team – as a school on Sports Day we virtually contributed zero waste to land fill! As a starting point, drink cans were recovered for a cash refund and food scraps went to green waste, but we also managed to separate and recycle a range of materials appropriately too: cups from Boost Juice, paper and cardboard, and food containers. That means that other than straws and a few products left behind by students we had a highly successful waste management system for the day. Huge thank you to those who organised this system and well done to everyone.

Learning and Helping Nature In One Go

Our school critters in Science (caterpillars) have been through their life cycle and blossomed in to spectacular butterflies. Several classes took advantage of this initiative and found it a rewarding experience. They were released into the wild not long after emerging. Small tip: the males can be identified by the small round black dot on the wings near the base of the body.



Welcome to the GGHS Family

Our composter has finally arrived and will now be put to use composting green waste into usage materials for our garden beds. The Green Team are very excited to be learning about composting in their sessions and if any one else would like a copy of the data or lesson plans, let us know.

Recycling Hint

What do you do with your bottle caps? These are usually not given much thought, yet are a huge problem as they end up in land fill. We all know that recycling depots don't want to deal with them and suggest they go in to the hard waste bin, but we have a better idea. Plastic caps are actually recyclable, just not with plastic bottles. The Green Team put all their caps in to a sauce bottle and send this to recyclers when it's full. This way there isn't the issue of them falling through the gaps of the recycling processing belt due to their size and ending up in land fill. Handy tip: put a small cut into the rim of the sauce bottle so the caps fit easily.



Want to be less reliant on harsh unsafe chemicals in the home?

Good old Baking Soda can be used to clean just about anything, from carpets to bathrooms, and even works a treat when washing your clothes. Did you also know that the trusty vinegar will soften your clothes if half a cup is added to each wash?

Plastic to Land Fill in May – No Way!

The Environmental Action Team are issuing you a challenge – to reduce the amount of plastic that ends up in land fill during the month of May. We are all pretty good at putting our hard plastics in our home recycling bins, but soft plastics, such as plastic bags, cling wrap, food packaging and product packaging, usually end up in the hard waste bin. Did you know that you can put all of your soft plastics in to a plastic bag and take them to the soft plastics recycling bins at Coles? This way they will be recycled to make park furniture and boardwalks rather than ending up in land fill. We will be encouraging each office in the school to have a soft plastics 'bin', but what an easy way to do your part at home too! The first day the Languages faculty monitored their waste using this initiative there was absolutely no waste that went to landfill . If they can do it, so can we all.

Who Gives a Crap?

Are you one of the many who try to stick to the 50¢ a roll rule when buying your toilet paper? You can stick to that rule whilst also using a recycled product and have 50% of profits go to supplying access to toilets and clean sanitation to developing nations worldwide! Who Gives A Crap is an Australian business who use 100% recycled paper, bamboo and sugarcane to provide a superior wipe product that is eco-friendly and socially responsible. You simply order online at www.whogivesacrap.com.au and your box of loo paper/tissues/paper towel will be delivered to your door. Two staff members from the school took the plunge and road tested the product, and safe to say, they will not be buying store bought toilet paper ever again!



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