



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 ☺*

June 2016

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

*We'd like you to stop and reflect on this for a moment: The Earth is 4.6 billion years old. Let's scale that to 46 years. We have been here for 4 hours. Our industrial revolution began 1 minute ago. In that time, we have destroyed more than 50% of the world's forests. This clearly isn't sustainable, but at Golden Grove High School **we are attempting to do our bit!** Due to a variety of initiatives related to reducing wasting paper over the past 5 weeks, such as making more effective use of our emailing system, we estimate that we have already saved thousands of pieces of paper from being wasted at our site. Imagine what these figures will look like by the end of the year! Let's keep working together to achieve our goal of a more sustainable GGHS.*

The Results Are In

Does litter in your community bug you? Unfortunately the state of our lovely school grounds is appalling at times due to litter and that certainly bugs us! Last term we asked all students to participate in a quick survey to gauge what the barriers are within our school community to students not using our wonderful bin system correctly. With just over 400 responses, we are alarmed by some of the results. What do you think of these statistics?

- **9%** of students surveyed do not put their rubbish in the bin because they **"don't care"**
- **20%** of students surveyed do not put their rubbish in the bin because they identify themselves as being **"lazy"** and won't change

So why is it so important that we have a change in attitude? ***Because without a healthy Earth, there isn't a healthy anything!***



Let us also consider the results relating to the use of the organics bins in our yard and stop and think about our choices when we pack our lunch in the morning:

44% of students surveyed throw away their food on a regular basis because they are **"not hungry"**

25% of students surveyed throw away their food on a regular basis because they **"don't like"** what their parents pack them

15% of students surveyed throw away their food on a regular basis because they have **"too much"**

Save Money and the Environment

Have you ever considered getting a water saving showerhead? A standard showerhead uses about 15-25 litres of water per minute. A three-star rated water efficient showerhead uses as little as 6-7 litres per minute. This will save around 14,500 litres per household each year. An even better point is you could reduce your gas hot water costs by around 47% by using a water efficient showerhead! **Ecovantage** are running a free energy efficiency program for householders in South Australia. Save on your electricity and water bills with these **free energy saving products (including free installation)**: water saving showerheads, compact fluorescent globes and standby power controllers. Check them out: <http://www.ecovantage.com.au/free-energy-saving-products-south-australia/>

Plastic to Landfill in May? No Way!

In our last newsletter we issued you a challenge to help us reduce the excessive amount of soft plastic that we as a school community send to landfill on a daily basis. While most of the plastic bottles used at school are going into our yellow 10c bottles and cans deposit bins which will get recycled into something new, most of the plastic sandwich wrap and plastic zip-lock bags are going straight in the red bins bound for landfill after just one use. Unfortunately, on top of this, these items, along with chip packets, are one of the most common items found around the yard or on the ground, wedged into gaps or plants, or left on tables and benches which are provided for students to enjoy in their break times.

Over the last month we have had a focus on collecting this soft plastic that staff and students are bringing and disposing of at school in order to recycle it and give it new life rather than have it end up in landfill. Our aim was to have a small plastics bin in every office and a number of classrooms which we would collect and take to a Coles store to place in one of their plastics recycling bins. This would then be taken to be used to create other items such as park furniture.



From the challenge, it has been exciting to hear stories of people setting up a soft plastics bin in their homes! However, from the school community we believe that we were only able to collect a miniscule amount of the total plastics being used in the school per month. We are hoping with stronger publicity, the practise of reducing the amount of plastics being used and recycling what is used whenever possible, we could really make a difference!

Free Resources

Don't forget the free resources for staff and students available in Student Services foyer. The cupboard contains lots of reclaimed items such as folders, plastic sleeves, notepads and general stationary and it's all free. Access is available throughout the entire day.



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

If you mix 50% vinegar and 50% water you will make your windows sparkle. No harsh toxic chemicals required!



It's Almost Ready

Yes, we are taking our already wonderful recycling program to the next level! Our recycling sorting table is almost completed and should be delivered within the next few days. This addition to our school community will make our can and bottle recycling much easier and more profitable, as well as being better for the environment. We can't wait to put it to use!

Please note: Our newsletter is very colourful and has beautiful pictures. Please be conscious about whether you print this newsletter or not. It is meant to be read and enjoyed on a device or tablet and we would like to see it not printed at all. Thank you for being considerate.