

Dear Families,

We want to share some exciting Green news for our community: **Starting at the end of February, PS 29 will begin participating in the NYC Schools Organics Collection Pilot! This means that all food waste sorted at our school will no longer go to the landfill but instead will be composted at a nearby industrial compost facility.** In addition, we can now use compostable trays all days in the cafeteria instead of the one day per week we are doing now. This will be an easy transition for our students since they have already been separating the garbage, recycling and food waste in the cafeteria. Last year our Recycling Monitors lead the way in improving our recycling efforts in classrooms and in the cafeteria.

This year, our Recycling Monitors -- 2 students from each classroom -- have decided to change their title to "Green Team Leaders." They wanted their name to reflect their desire to go beyond recycling. The Leaders attend monthly meetings to discuss new projects and share success stories and challenges. The Green Team is made up of not just students, but teachers, parents, staff and custodians, but our Green Team is student-driven.

In addition, our lunchtime "Green Team Club" is open to all students. We meet each Wednesday in room 510 to talk about ongoing projects and new ideas for our school. This is what we're working on now:

- classroom recycling problem areas
- creating signage around the school
- evaluating effectiveness of recycling stations around school
- choosing a logo for our green team
- introducing recycling stations into our Kindergarten and Pre-K classrooms
- creating an eco-code for our school
- inviting politicians to help us eliminate the use of Styrofoam in our cafeteria
- Green Team bulletin board & suggestion box in the cafeteria

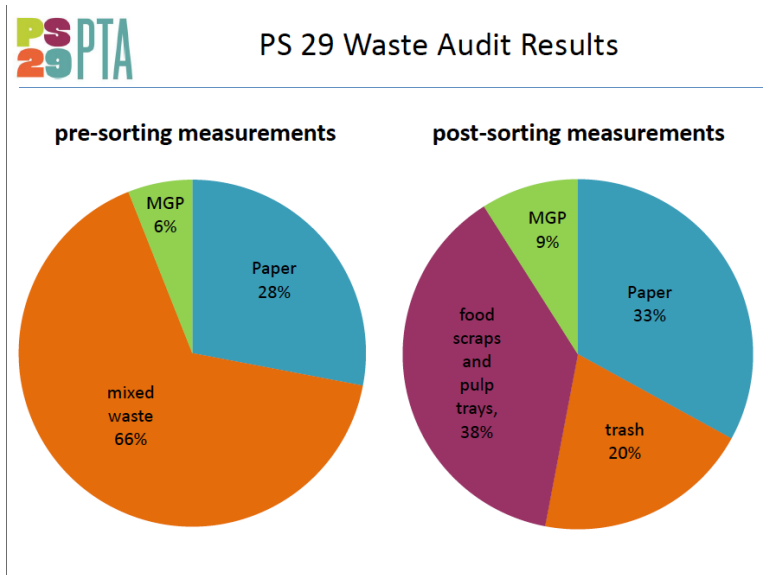
Our Green Team Leaders have been empowered with the tasks of not just identifying problems but also coming up with their own solutions. As they work through these problems and solutions together, they are learning that adopting new systems and behaviors to make recycling efforts a success is a process that must be nurtured and maintained within the culture of the school, from principals to teachers to staff to students. It is a joy to watch them as they take the lead in cultivating these new habits for their fellow students and teachers.

The Green Committee: Tina Reres and parents: Rhonda Keyser, Anya Sacharow, Emmanuelle Chiche, Jessica Delaney, Jen Miller, Vicki Latimer Roan & Amy Sirot

Awards

- GrowNYC Recycling Champions Awards - Spring 2013
 - Top 3 Best Recycling Education Campaign
 - 2nd Place in overall recycling rate (with 146% increase!)

By separating out Food Waste, our kids reduced Landfill Waste (trash) by 38%!



- Department of Education Green School Award
 - National Wildlife Federation's Eco-Schools USA A program that provides a framework to help educators integrate sustainable principles throughout their schools and curriculum.
 - Bronze Award for creating an Energy Plan.
 - Silver Award for our recycling efforts in the Waste & Consumption category
 - *Application in process for Green Flag Award for **School Grounds**.*
 - For further info: <http://www.nwf.org/Eco-Schools-USA>
 - Wrigley's LitterLess Campaign Grant (to be used to refine our cafeteria waste sorting stations).
- Accomplishments** in bringing recycling and conservation into the culture of the school and community.
- Compostable Trays 1 day per week in the cafeteria
 - Cafeteria waste sorting: trash, recycling, food waste
 - Setting up protocols for refining and improving waste-sorting stations in the cafeteria
 - 2 Yearly Community Rummage & Recycling Events
 - 2013 Earth Day was a Community Work Day in our Garden
 - 2013 Spring Block Party was a low-waste event, Recycling Stations manned by students. All Food waste was collected by Gowanus Canal Conservancy & composted.
 - 2013 & 2014 Eat Pie & Shop featured Recycling Stations
 - Paper Reduction - Now only 1 backpacked flyer per family sent home from the school or PTA
 - Green tip of the week - in Parent Coordinator email.
 - Sims Recyclarium visited PS 29 to teach kids about recycling and play sorting games to reinforce recycling knowledge. Working on a trip to the Sims Recycling facility later in the Spring.
 - January 2014 Day of Service was a family work day with Gowanus Canal Conservancy, turning compost and cleaning up litter along the streets.

