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GREEN GLANCE
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Sustainability & Service-Learning

Current educational research suggests that focusing on local issues in a meaningful, project-based context, helps to engage learners in issues that relate to both their local community and the global community. In line with 21st Century Learning, Service Learning is fundamentally project-based. By volunteering on local projects, young learners have the opportunity to interact with their community in meaningful ways. This kind of real-world learning is both physically and intellectually engaging. It also promotes a land ethic that fosters sustainability and a healthy community. As all educators know, young learners love to be a part of tangible projects that build skills and leave the world an apparently better place. Here are some general, environmental service-learning opportunities in our community:

- Creek or river stewardship projects
- Community and school garden initiatives
- Trail maintenance and construction
- Animal care and shelter support
- Create an outdoor classroom
- Regular community clean-ups
- Native plant installation
- Invasive species removal
- Participate in a bird survey
- Create habitat for specific animals

Teacher Feature: Toni Bond's Green Classroom

Grief Point teacher Toni Bond is making a concerted effort to be environmentally conscious in her classroom. For the past two years with grades 1,2 and 3, students have been learning to knit and hand sew during art time so that art projects they create can be special and long lasting. Students made heart shaped pillows for Valentine's Day last year complete with ribbons and bows and cut up old clothing for the stuffing. Everything used was recycled. This year students made pillows for Christmas presents for their parents, again with recycled material. Students also knit scarves for themselves and their teddies or dolls. "Every student was excited to learn these skills and continually requested to work on them when they had spare time."

According to Toni, starting these projects all began with decluttering to simplify life at home and in the classroom. Toni's efforts to declutter have now blossomed into a philosophy that influences both her teaching and her home life. For Valentine's Day this year, Toni's students are making natural Valentines and encouraging parents not to purchase commercial Valentine cards. This is a continuation of their paperless holiday's theme after the students made Christmas gift bags with recycled newspapers. This project was such a success that making the newspaper gift bags turned into a school-wide project. Inspired by her projects at school, Toni decided to do the same at home with her own family. "At home we did

not use paper, tape, bows, or cards of any kind to wrap Christmas presents. We wrapped them in several layers (for the fun of unwrapping) of pillow cases, towels, sheets, and blankets. We had more fun and less garbage than previous Christmas's with wrapping paper."

Currently Toni's class is working on awareness of the damaging effects of batteries in our environment and discussing how choosing toys not requiring batteries will be much more environmentally friendly.

For the sake of the next generation and the planet, great work Toni!





DID YOU KNOW...

**Canadians:
Making Less, More**



Canadian, per capita consumption of paper for printing and writing from the years 1983 to 2003 rose 93.6 per cent to 91.4 kilograms — about 20,000 pages per person. This rise in paper use is accompanied by an increase in the use of communication technologies. Despite the proliferation of email, Canadians now receive over 10.7 billion pieces of mail compared to 6.6 billion in 1983.

All this despite a minimal increase in population. Even more interesting is that our country currently uses over 6 million tonnes of paper and paperboard annually. Of that 6 million tonnes, only 1/4 of Canada's paper and paperboard is recycled.
- Statistics Canada

Best Practices: Making Paper with Your Students

Not only is making homemade paper a fun activity to do with students, but also it is an excellent opportunity to turn recycled paper waste into beautiful, usable paper products. Besides, there's nothing quite like a homemade Valentine.

How to Make Homemade Paper
Materials Needed:

- 2 Buckets
- Blender
- Used classroom paper, ripped into 1 inch pieces
- 5"x7" Wooden Frame
- Screening Material large enough to cover frame
- Small nails, tacks or staples to attach screening to frame
- Basin at least 8" deep, wide enough to fit frame
- Pieces of felt 9"x12"(at least one per student)
- Warm water
- Old newspapers
- Wooden Spoon for stirring
- Sponge
- Several Magnifying Glasses

Procedure:

1. The day before doing this lesson, show the students that the scraps of paper are being placed into the first bucket and covered with warm water. Wrap the screen around the wooden

frame and tack or staple it down.

2. The day of the lesson, take a handful of the wet shredded paper from the bucket and put into the blender. Cover with warm water and blend until the paper is broken down into pulp. Pour the pulp into the basin and repeat until all of the paper is processed.

3. Lay newspapers in an area that can be undisturbed for a day and place felts on them. You may want to mark these with the students' names so they will know which paper is theirs. Before the students begin to make their individual pieces of paper, you can briefly have them touch the pulp with their hands and you can explain that the paper is fibrous; it contains little fibres that fit together to form a mat that becomes paper.

4. Have the students take turns dipping the frame into the basin and lifting it up horizontally. The students should gently shake the frame from side to side and hold it for a minute to drain off the excess water. It is also helpful to try to absorb some of the water by applying the sponge to the other side. Wring out the sponge.

5. The student should then flip the frame onto his/her piece of felt. Use the sponge and light tapping to peel the paper off of the frame and onto the felt. While students are waiting to make their paper, in addition to watching the other students, they can take a magnifying glass and examine notebook or computer paper to try to see fibres within the paper.



6. Let the paper dry overnight. Voila! Paper from paper.
Special Notes: A tablespoon of liquid starch can be added to the basin of pulp so students can decorate the finished product without having the ink run. The Marcal website has a kids page with paper decorating ideas. (www.marcalpaper.com)

Important Note!

Be sure that when you are done with the pulp you do not pour it down the sink or it will clog the drain.



BCgreen
GAMES

*For more info, contact:
info@bcgreengames.ca
Visit: www.bcgreengames.ca
Contact your school SSC representative to
access your 1/2 day release time!*

The SSC Offers 1/2 Day Release Time

The Sustainable Schools Committee is pleased to again offer 1/2 day release time to teachers who register a project in the BC Green Games. This province-wide competition for students in Kindergarten to Grade 12 is designed to motivate action, enable sharing, reward and celebrate the efforts of schools in BC. Document and share your students' success stories online and be eligible to win - over \$50,000 in prize money will be awarded to schools! The registration deadline has been extended so register your project today!

A Green Valentine's Day: Sharing Love for the Planet



Year of Science Funding Grants Opportunity

The Year of Science initiative provides a wonderful opportunity to highlight and support the importance of science education and accomplishments of K-12 students. The Year of Science is seeking proposals from science and education partner groups that help increase awareness and interest in the importance of science. This means that individual schools and districts now have a mechanism to potentially help fund science fairs or other science related events at the school and district level. Events and activities must take place before the end of June. More information and a copy of the funding proposal template is on the Year of Science website at: <http://yearofsciencebc.ca/calendar-of-events-and-news/event-or-activity-submission/>

Valentine's Day is a holiday steeped in rich history. While some historians claim Valentine's Day originated in Roman times as The Festival of Lupercalia, essentially a festival of fertility, others decree it as a Christian feast day honouring Roman martyr Saint Valentine. Whatever you believe about the holiday's beginnings, it is unlikely our ancestors today would recognize modern Valentine's Day as having any relation to its origins.

There is something precious and heart-warming about receiving a Valentine on this day of friendship and love. However, the scale of the occasion we now celebrate on February 14th is no longer simply about affection. Today, Valentine's Day is also about shopping. As a result, Valentine's Day, like most modern incarnations of historic holidays, has a formidable environmental footprint.

Some fast consumption tips about this holiday are as follows:

- Over 1 billion Valentine Cards are sent globally, making Valentine's Day the second largest card sending holiday of the year behind Christmas.

- Over 36 million heart shaped boxes of chocolate are sold each year

Valentine's Day is the number one holiday for fresh cut flower purchases, red rose sales being most popular.

(American Greetings Corporation 2010).

So how can we enjoy this holiday with our students while setting an example for the planet?

1. Paperless Valentines: Consider sending E-Cards to classmates, colleagues, and loved ones. Making Valentine messages out-

side with sand, stones, sticks, or already fallen, forest debris is another creative way to engage your students in sharing their fondness for their friends.

2. Recycled Valentines: Look for Valentines that are made from recycled or tree-free paper.

3. Fair Trade/Organic: Consider buying Fair Trade or Organic chocolates or flowers. Although these products often travel thousands of kilometers to get to you, Fair Trade and Organic Certification ensures better working conditions for farmers and generally more sustainable and less destructive farming practices.

On such a special day, a day devoted to expressing our feelings for those we care about, let us also consider expanding out heartfelt intent to include the workers who bring us our chocolates, as well as the trees, bears, and bees.

Resource Review: Going Wild (Sierra Club BC) ★★★★★

Teaching about TEK & Wild Products from BC's Coastal Rainforest: A Guidebook for Grades 4-7

This dynamic resource was produced by the Sierra Club in consultation and conjunction with the First Nations Turning Point Initiative and the Center for Non-Timber Forest Products. *Going Wild* is designed to not-only reconnect First Nations children to the plants, forests, medicines, and traditional practices, it is also an excellent resource to introduce all peoples to concepts of Traditional Ecological Knowledge (TEK) and background material on west coast plants and mushrooms of the rainforest.

The activities in this guidebook focus on significant species, how they are used and why they are important. The activities are designed for grades 4 to 7, but also include extension activities for other grades. The guidebook intends to help students connect to their environment and to plants that have been, and continue to be important to their coastal communities. All activities are explicitly linked to BC Learning Outcomes in one or more of the following subject areas: Science, Social Studies, Math, Visual Art, Physical Education, Health and Career Education.

There are 15 activities / lesson plans that are designed with an experiential format, encouraging teachers to take their students outdoors to get to know their local school ground and forest. Student and teacher handouts are comprehensive and thoughtful; there are many step-by-step, hands-on activities all emphasizing introductory, reinforcement, and follow-up pursuits.

To access this free, online resource, go to: http://www.sierraclub.bc.ca/education/news/NTFP_Guidebook.pdf



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Sustainability and Eco-Education

Supporting students

in reinventing their world!



The Green Glance welcomes submissions for April's newsletter.

Any specific district, school, or classroom sustainability initiative, project or idea can make a great story!

Student submissions are welcome.

Please email articles by March 15 to:

kwestland@sd47.bc.ca

Environmental Days in February and March

World Wetlands Day, February 2

Every year, February 2nd marks the anniversary of the 1971 adoption of the Ramsar Convention on World Wetland's Day. Every year, since 1997, government agencies, non-governmental organizations, and groups of citizens at all levels of the community have taken advantage of the opportunity to undertake actions aimed at raising public awareness of wetland values and benefits in general and the Ramsar Convention in particular.

Official Website: www.ramsar.org

Lesson Plans: http://atlas.nrcan.gc.ca/site/english/learningresources/theme_modules/wetlands/index.html

Bottled Water Free Day, March 10

Endorsed by the BCTF, Bottled Water Free Day is a campaign to draw attention to the overwhelming amount of plastic waste produced by the bottled water industry. The campaign also looks at water as a public resource.

Official Website: www.bottledwaterfreeday.ca

National Biodiesel Day, March 18

National Biodiesel Day takes place on March 18 in honour of Rudolf Diesel's birthday. National Biodiesel Day honours Mr. Diesel for his foresight in recognizing the valuable role of vegetable oil-based fuel. He originally designed the diesel engine in the late 19th Century to run on peanut oil. Only later did petroleum become the standard.

Official Website: http://www.biodiesel.org/biodiesel_day/

Lesson Plans: http://www.lessonplansdirectory.com/renewable_energy/biofuel.html

UN World Water Day, March 22

The international observance of World Water Day is an initiative that grew out of the 1992 United Nations Conference on Environment and Development (UNCED) in Rio de Janeiro.

Official Website: www.worldwaterday.org

Lesson Plans: http://www.lessonplanet.com/directory_articles/elementary_science_lesson_plans/22_March_2010/306/world_water_day
