



Marking Period 3 Report

Reusable bottle Program:

- **321 students** (87%) of first to eighth graders **brought in a reusable bottle every day** and earned the second reward!
- If each of those students brought in **just one single-use bottle every day instead of a reuseable one** in the third marking period, it **would have come to 13,803 single use plastic water bottles!**
- 13,803 single use water bottles, if lined up, would measure about 1.74 miles, and would weigh 289 pounds!!!
- **So far this year our school has prevented the waste from about 40,811 single use bottles from being created!**
- 40,811 single use plastic bottles would weigh 854 pounds and measure 5.14 miles if lined up end to end.
- 5.14 miles is a little less of the distance from the southern point of Absecon Island in Longport to Stockton University's Atlantic City Campus and just over the length of the island that the Wildwoods are on!
- Excellent work preventing that waste from even being created in the first place!!!

Single Sided Paper:

- Elementary office: 2.5lbs of single sided paper saved for reuse!
- Elementary copy room: 23.5lbs of single sided paper saved for reuse!
- Middle school office: 0.5lbs of single sided paper saved for reuse!
- Middle school copy room: 4.5lbs of single sided paper saved for reuse!
- Nurse's office: 3lbs of single sided paper saved for reuse!
- Library: 1lb of single sided paper saved for reuse!
- Marking Period 3 total: 35lbs
- **Yearly total of single sided paper saved for reuse so far: 105.25 pounds!**

Printer Ink Recycling:

- **37 used printer cartridges (about 57lbs!) were collected** and will be brought to Staples for recycling instead of being thrown out in the landfill!
- **Total pounds of printer cartridges recycled this year so far: 158 pounds!**
- **Individual cartridges collected in marking periods two and three: 68 cartridges!**

Beach Cleanups

- 2 beach cleanups this marking period (Wetlands behind Ventnor Plaza, Ventnor Ballfields/Littlerock Ave.)
- **530lbs of trash and 41lbs of recycling collected at the two cleanups** this marking period!!!
- For detailed reports, see the VECC Green Team tab on our website or the data sheet on room 301's door.
- All data was sent to Surfrider National to help advocate for environmental legislation.
- **Yearly total of 875lbs of litter (Trash and recycling) collected by VECC at beach cleanups so far this school year!**

Save for Snack Initiative:

- Since it was implemented in homerooms school wide on January 31st the save for snack initiative **saved 708 snacks and 76 plastic utensil packs** from breakfasts and lunches for other students to eat or use later in the school day instead of being thrown away!

VECC Green Fair:

- VECC's first Green Fair took place in the community room the night of the Educational Expo!
- **Five environmental groups** including ACUA, Jacques Cousteau Reserve, Earth First Native Plant Nursery, Surfrider South Jersey, and Watershed Ambassadors all attended to teach families about our local ecosystems and the importance of protecting the natural world around us.



Crayon and Marker Recycling:

- **8lbs of dead markers** were collected from the community room and eighth grade classrooms and will be brought to Staples for recycling!

School Travel Plan for Walking or Biking:

- A travel plan for safe walking routes to and from VECC was written up for our Sustainable Jersey Application.
- **Walking and biking route maps will be distributed to middle school students this earth week** encouraging them to walk or bike to school in the nice weather. Information about how this benefits their own health and reduces their carbon footprints will be included as well.

Earth Week:

- **Earth Day is Monday, April 22nd!** Themed dress up day schedule will be distributed to students so they can show their support for our earth throughout the week.
- **Tuesday April 23: Ocean Friendly Garden Weeding and Cleanup** after school from 3:30 to 4:30. Surfrider South Jersey will be coming with volunteers as well. Permission slips will need to be signed to participate but both students and families are welcome!
- **Wednesday April 24: Tree planting!** The Building and Grounds committee approved two locations for trees to be planted in the grass strip between the playgrounds and Bayside Parking Lot.
- Tree plantings will happen during the school day, middle school in the morning and elementary school in the afternoon (weather permitting) exact times to follow.

VECC Food Garden:

- The Building and Grounds Committee approved the proposed location of our new garden! The garden will consist of four raised beds measuring 5ft by 20ft each located next to our Ocean Friendly Garden along Lafayette Ave.
- Tarps were laid down at the site by 8th grade students to prepare the area and kill the grass to make it easier for us to till up and use the existing soil.
- ACUA approved an eco-soil donation for 20 cubic yards to start our garden to be delivered on May 6th at 10:00am
- **Volunteers for constructing and planting will be needed!** Students, staff, and families are welcome, permission slips will be distributed as we get closer to the gardening date.