

School Council Meeting- Feb 2020

School wide event focused around a theme... why not sustainability & the environment?

- Important message to send to our kids and families that Lawrence cares about these issues & is working on improving our school's footprint & commitment to sustainability.
 - Opportunity to bring the whole school together around a global issue.
 - This is a common concern these days- on everyone's minds...
 - Give kids a way to contribute in a meaningful way- through education and then action.
- The environment is can be a pretty diverse theme (can cover a lot of ground):
 - composting, recycling, no idling
 - lessons in science, geography, literacy, outdoor education, visual arts, equity, legislation & policy, student activism, community service, international relations, etc.
- Activities could be tailored to K-8; older kids helping to teach younger ones or to be leaders in their "family groups".

Possible Activities already @ Lawrence (built in)- ****You all know better what is in place at Lawrence already... could poll the teachers in each grade, but below is what I do know.*

- Recycling with the Green Team (markers, glue sticks, hard to recycle items- Terracycle); can remind kids of different bins at school and what goes in each one (trash-vs-recycling); in cafeteria too.
- Car Free Day, May 6th – maybe add in a K-8 "victory lap" around the track to celebrate the day... once the bell rings? Or 10 min. before school? Include no idling education here?
- Food Fest- could we position this to happen during the school day instead? *Not sure if working parents could do this...* or if we could just "borrow" a couple of elements of Food Fest... cider bike?
- Mr. Chan's 6th grade science- they have already covered
 - Waste water/water purification & recycling (just made signs to be put up around school); other grades addressing it too? Mr. Porter & social studies?
 - **SPEAKING OF CURRICULUM**- Jennifer Monopoli (Lawrence parent & School Committee Member) has asked for **climate change to be on the agenda for a Curriculum Subcommittee Meeting TODAY (2/4) @ 4PM- town hall.**
- Mr. Norwood and/or Mr. Weinberger- garden activities??
- Mr. Brown & Climate Action Team??- Mr. Brown is currently working on MTA action group for K-8 teacher resources in preparation for earth day.
- Ms. Moriarty- possibly literary tie ins we could make... who doesn't love *The Lorax*?!
- Art activities? Makerspace with natural objects? Not sure what has been done, but assume there is something here...

Activities to Develop (possible add-ons)...

- Pilot a composting program by the Green Team (parents & staff combined effort). Education around composting, food waste & setting up a system of new waste streams in cafeteria.
 - Could even measure the amount of waste in the cafeteria BEFORE and AFTER composting...
 - Could also involve a classroom waste challenge for K-1 grades. Weigh their waste at lunch over a week and then weigh it again when you remove the food waste (compost). Have older kids calculate how much estimated waste over a whole school year could be saved by composting.
- Mr. Chan MIGHT get to these topics:
 - Decomposers/composting; How humans affect the environment (greenhouse gas emissions and effects on oceans); How natural disasters/the environment affect humans (hurricanes, tsunamis, etc.)
- Possible speaker/performer to be arranged to inspire and motivate?
 - Inflatable globe? EarthView (but you have to be a trained “wrangler” to use it), per Mr. Brown.
 - Naturalist comes to speak on birds, etc. in Brookline? All 4th graders get a National Parks Pass- maybe tie in with naturalist?
- Petition signing or drawing (for younger ones)- around an issue (plastic bags, straws, single use plastics, etc.). Or even to the town- asking for all compostables in the cafeteria!! Compostables for class events- school wide commitment.
- Bulletin board or display case? Have a rotating responsibility for creating the display around a common theme...



Trash and how long it takes to decompose? Or things you can recycle at Lawrence (markers, glue sticks, have a Styrofoam collection day)?

- *The Story of Stuff*- materialism cycle from marketing/consuming to landfills...
- Community Service Activity- clean up an outdoor area (beach, park, river)?



- OR- Spray painting “drains to the river” signs near street drainage... get permission and materials from the town. Washes away eventually with rain- biodegradable.
- SRTS (Safe Routes To School) education? Bike and pedestrian safety- if we encourage car free... we need the education around people-powered modes of transportation.