

# **EARTH WEEK APRIL 19-23, 2010**

## **ALL WEEK ACTIVITIES:**

**Interactive bulletin board!** Kids will be able to write their personal pledge on how to help protect the planet and show the school how much they care.

Create poems about going green & post them in the lobby to be seen!

If you are a poet & know it, start penning your praises to the planet now. Drop it in the office anytime.



Calling all Earth Friendly Artists! Paint it! Collage it! Draw it! However you choose to express yourself, create earth friendly art & be part of the school art exhibit!

**Bring in books to give back!** Collection bins are in the lobby ALL WEEK to collect used books for the **hugely successful book exchange** on Friday afternoon after school.

Recycle bins in lobby! Did you know our school gets money if we recycle used ink cartridges, cell phones, and juice bags (not juice boxes, which are recyclable at the curb)? We also will be collecting used athletic shoes, old crayons, and clean plastic shopping bags.

Watch for recycled notepads & rainbow crayons! Look for these fun & recycled items many students have helped to create.

Wake up about the news on how to help our planet! Listen to tips read by students during the morning announcements.

**Lunchroom Trivia!** Watch the tickertape in the cafeteria & see if you can answer all five trivia questions.

### **DAILY CALENDAR:**

- 19 MONDAY: Recycling relay in gym: Run for fun in the race to recycle!
- 20 TUESDAY: Gardening at recess: Help make McKenzie's garden green!
- 21 WEDNESDAY: Recyclable art at recess: Join in some creative play after lunch!
- 22 THURSDAY: Earth Day: Walk to school, wear green & bring a waste free lunch!
- 23 FRIDAY: **Used book exchange:** Hurry to this after school because the books go fast!



# 10 SIMPLE THINGS YOU CAN DO NOW FOR OUR ENVIRONMENT

#### #1. TURN OFF THE LIGHTS, AND TURN DOWN THE HEAT.

70% of all greenhouse gas emissions in Chicago are attributable to buildings. Your home matters!

#### #2. TAKE CARE OF YOUR CAR AND SLOW DOWN!

Every 5 mph over 60 mph can cost you 20¢ more per gallon. Speeding, rapid acceleration and braking can lower gas mileage by 33% on highways and 5% in town.

Drive safely and keep your tires full!

#### **#3. EAT LESS MEAT.**

Meat production, especially beef, uses huge amounts of water and land. Forests are cleared to create pastures. Cows emit 30% of worldwide methane emissions, a greenhouse gas 23 times more potent than carbon dioxide.

#### #4. CHANGE YOUR LIGHTS TO CFLs TODAY.

Compact Fluorescent Lightbulbs use up to 75% less electricity than incandescents, and last 10 times longer. If every American household changed one bulb to a CFL, it would be the equivalent of taking 1 million cars off the road.

#### **#5. JUNK THE JUNK MAIL!**

Register with catalogchoice.org to get off all your catalog lists. Websites like greendimes.com and 41pounds.org stop other kinds of junk mail too.

#### #6. EAT SUSTAINABLE SEAFOOD.

Our oceans are being overfished and polluted.
For guidelines on safe and sustainable seafood, see www.blueocean.org/seafood.

#### **#7. RECYCLE, COMPOST AND REUSE!**

You can recycle many more things that you realize.

Check our Solid Waste Agency's recycling information at www.swancc.org/greenPages/greenpages.html.

Some carpet manufacturers will even recycle your old carpeting.

#### #8. TURN OFF THE WATER, AND USE COLD WATER.

Each American uses 100 gallons of water each day, enough to fill 1,600 drinking glasses! Our great lakes are shrinking fast because, without heavy ice cover during recent winters, the warmer lake water is evaporating faster. Use cold water to save 90% of your washing machine's energy consumption.

#### **#9. UNPLUG ELECTRONICS.**

Electronics and chargers still draw current when they are plugged in but turned off or in standby.

This "vampire electricity" costs homes an estimated \$1,000 per year.

Unplug it, or use a power strip and switch it all off.

#### **#10. DO NOT IDLE YOUR VEHICLE!**

Idling for more than 30 seconds uses more fuel than restarting the engine.

Turn it off at school, in the drive-through, and when dropping something off at a friend's house.

Reduce use of fossil fuels and save money.

#### #11. (BONUS!) BUY LOCALLY AND BUY LESS.

Transporting food and other products uses fuel. Natural resources are used to make products, so reduce your impact by not making the purchase.