

STAPLES

STAPLES®

Enjoy a selection of excerpts from past Recycle for Education Computer Lab Contest winning essays 2012/2013 Academic Year Winners:



Province: BC

Campus View Elementary School

Campus View Elementary School's students are trail blazers when it comes to implementing green initiatives. In 2011, a group of grade three classmates formed the Green Team, a student-led group focused on encouraging students, staff and the community to participate in green activities. The Green Team has led events and projects including "Bike or Walk to School Week" and the school's first-ever recycling and composting program. What the Green Team is most proud of is EarthFest, an annual event centred on Earth Day that encourages students and families to respect the planet through educational stations, eco-friendly arts and crafts, and games. The Green Team aims to expand the reach of EarthFest next year by inviting schools in the community along with University of Victoria's Nobel Prize winning professor, Andrew Weaver to discuss climate change and intergenerational equity. Through these green initiatives, students and faculty aim to live to up Campus View Elementary School's motto: "Today's Learners, Tomorrow's Leaders."



Province: BC

Windermere Community Secondary School

Windermere Community Secondary School students recognize the importance of having a positive impact on the planet. Committed to change, the Windermere Leadership Program is made up of students focusing on the importance of social responsibility, environmental stewardship and community engagement. The Windermere Leadership Program plans large-scale events throughout the year including the Climate Change Conference, a one day conference with workshops, presentations and community action aimed at addressing environmental and social issues. The Program also helps plan an Earth Day parade and celebration along with smaller initiatives at school including composting and recycling. Students are responsible for the planning, scouting speakers, securing grants, day-of logistics and promotion for all events and projects. Windermere Leadership Program members live by Margaret Mead's words, "Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful committed people can change the world. Indeed, it is the only thing that ever has."



Province: AB

Hillview Elementary School

Students at Hillview Elementary School have taken strides in recent years to make a positive environmental impact. Noticing a need to "educate as well as act" on environmental issues, students and teachers have worked together to improve and expand the current environmental programs. Through community support, Hillview Elementary School purchased resources and literature on conservation, the environment and energy, encouraging students to get involved. Students and staff came together to plan an annual Earth Day Fair as an opportunity for students to teach one another about the environment and encourage environmental stewardship. To expand on green initiatives, Hillview also added artistic programs to their curriculum, including the creation of original green-themed songs, resulting in a five-concert tour with Juno-winning singer/songwriter, Peter Puffin. Hillview Elementary School's students are motivated to make a change in their community and note, "We are the change we want to see in the world."



Province: AB
M.E. LaZerte High School

Students at M.E. LaZerte High School are working together with their community to raise awareness on environmental issues and make a positive impact. What began as a student environmental initiative four years ago has expanded into a school-wide program to educate students, the community and the province on sustainable development. Since the program's inception in 2008, students have worked on a number of environmental projects including: a paper recycling program, composting, battery disposal program and a district-wide environmental symposium. In 2009 the School joined the UNESCO Associated Schools Network, mandated to provide education on sustainable development and have later gone on to plan and participate in a number of events including the Alberta High School Leadership Conference. Taking on these green initiatives has led to award-winning results for M.E. LaZerte including the Zero-Waste Award presented by the Recycling Council of Alberta in 2009. These committed students are motivated to work together to "do the right thing."



Province: MB
École Saint-Avila

Students and staff at École Saint-Avila have found a creative way to protect the environment and reuse water. Rain water, melting snow and runoff from the school's parking lot have collected into puddles throughout the grounds for years. Not wanting to waste the water, staff and students researched ways they could use it, instead of dumping it. Through research, students discovered that native plants remove harmful nitrates and phosphates from the environment and help improve water quality. This discovery sparked an idea to plant native trees and plants on the school grounds to improve the community's water quality, and École Saint-Avila's green space. This school-wide initiative garnered so much attention that the school wrote a guide book on how to improve school grounds and shared it with every school in Manitoba. It also expanded into a community program, with local organizations touring the grounds and educating themselves on the importance of rain gardens, water quality and the ecosystem. École Saint-Avila's community sees great value in "encouraging people to do what they can to help the environment, one step at a time."



Province: ON
Parkview Secondary School

Parkview Secondary School students and staff are committed to green initiatives. Serving some of Hamilton's most disadvantaged youth, the Parkview Secondary School community is working to alleviate some stress while helping the environment. The school teaches self-sufficiency to students by using their greenhouse to grow herbs and vegetables which are used to prepare lunches for students. All food waste is then composted and used to enrich soil in the greenhouse. Students and staff have also spearheaded a number of other green initiatives including programs aimed at engaging students with learning disabilities, greening the local community through the "Keep Balsam Beautiful" bi-annual event, recycling programs, and the "Excyte" program where students use an environmental model of business development to create products from recycled resources, such as furniture and jewelry. Dedicated to making the community and environment a better place, the Parkview Secondary School community "truly understands the need for environmental sustainability while applying the reduce, reuse and recycle model in the daily life of the school."



Province: ON
E.L. Crossley Secondary School

Students and staff at E.L. Crossley live by the motto "Good planets are hard to find." When the school community joined the Ontario EcoSchools Program five years ago, students and staff began "greening" it. The school has implemented environmental programs including: a recycling program, battery disposal program, promotion and selling reusable water bottles, tree planting and an annual event "Crossley is Not Afraid of the Dark" aimed at promoting and educating the community between Earth Hour and Earth Day. Dedication to green initiatives has landed the school several green awards and certifications. To take the green revolution one step further, E.L. Crossley became the second Canadian school to join the Global Ozone Project, a project for students around the world to collect data to establish a global ground level ozone bank. E.L. Crossley Secondary School's dedication to the environment showcases their "passion and commitment to making the world a greener place."



Province: QC
Hélène-de Champlain Secondary School

The Hélène-de Champlain Secondary School community is dedicated to teaching students about ecology and the environment. A school for students with severe behavioural and/or developmental learning disabilities, the staff work to educate students on the environment in an interactive way. The school has taken on a number of initiatives including: horticulture classes, solar panels, rain water collection programs, recycling and composting. They also established a community garden for students to work on and contribute to, producing over 4,000lbs in vegetables last year alone. These environmental initiatives have landed the school environmental awards and recognition such as the the Coup de Coeur award from the Quebec federation for the environment in 2012.



Province: QC
Notre-Dame-de-Liesse

Faculty and students at Notre-Dame-de-Liesse are actively involved in environmental protection. Since the 2007-2008 school year, the school community has worked on a number of green initiatives including: selling earthworm composters to surrounding municipalities, building garden boxes and planting trees. The school chose fruit trees for their schools grounds so that once mature, they will be able to prepare healthy snacks and desserts for the students to enjoy. Notre-Dame-de-Liesse also established a garbage reduction campaign called "Occupe-toi de ta boîte!" where they minimized the amount of garbage disposed of at the school by over 60 percent. For students and staff at Notre-Dame-de-Liesse "environmental initiatives just make sense!"



Province: NL
Holy Name of Mary Academy

For students and staff at Holy name of Mary Academy, environmental awareness is key. After a visit from a former student who was an organizer of the COP 15 Summit in Copenhagen, students decided to take action. In 2009, students formed the HNMA Eco-Kids group, a student-led club aimed at creating awareness on environmental issues and taking care of the environment. HNMA Eco-Kids have worked endlessly to educate fellow students about the importance of caring for the planet. Initiatives include: a recycling program, organizing walk or bike to school days, distributing LED light bulbs to homes in the community, and host Earth Day and Earth events. Coming from a rural town that does not offer a lot of extracurricular activities, the HNMA Eco-Kids group is a way for students to not only learn about climate change, but also to travel and share their knowledge. HNMA Eco-Kids aims to continue to educate the community and live up to their motto: "A little does a lot."



STAPLES®

2013 Recycle for Education Testimonials



M.E. LaZerte School, Edmonton, AB

"When we heard that we had won grant money from Staples for our school, we were ecstatic! We then discovered that this grant money was going to be used to furnish the Digital Arts room with brand new Mac Minis and we were over the moon! Apple has long been the standard in the digital design world. We were aware of Macs being the standard but it became even more evident to us at last years Skills Canada Alberta competition where the majority of students were using Apple computers for their design work.

The excitement and interest that this lab has caused in this school has been amazing. We've had many students walk into the lab just to see what it looked like. We believe that this interest is going to attract many more students to our program. On top of this, exclusive programs like iMovie and GarageBand that are native to Apple computers can now be used for our students' projects.

It has been our dream for the past few years to start students developing applications for both iPhone and iPads but we struggled to find a viable solution for this using the Windows platform. Now with the Macs, we can use the iOS-based program Xcode to expose students to programming and to use their design skills on apps that others can use. We can't imagine a more rewarding experience than having the parents, friends, and family of our students download and use an app that was created here at M.E. LaZerte!

Being awarded \$25,000 has been a motivating factor for our environmental student group to continue running strong. Our team of 20-30 students meets every week to continue our recycling efforts and environmental stewardship because of the recognition through the Staples Recycle for Education contest.

This lab has opened up a ton of opportunities for students."

Shelley Kofluk, B. Ed., Student Leadership Department Head
M.E. LaZerte School





Hillview School, Edmonton, AB

"Hillview School staff have been actively involved in educating the schools' students and community in recycling and energy conservation for the past six years. Classes have undertaken environmental projects each year, completed entire school projects with culminating activities and celebrations on Earth Day and have participated in Artist in Residency programs with a focus on environmental conservation.

To support and share this learning, the students have developed science projects which were displayed and demonstrated at Earth Day science fairs for the school community; written and performed environmentally focused songs ending with a CD release party and musical tour of community schools; made environmentally focused movies and utilized our existing technology devices to record and report their findings. We have also completed school wide projects to help conserve resources, including the installation of an energy electricity monitor that tracks real-time energy use and retrofitting student use bathrooms with hand dryers and motion faucets to reduce paper use.

Hillview staff and students utilized the existing technology devices to the best of their ability (both the student and device). We realize the limitations with older technology and feel very fortunate to be a Staples Canada Recycle for Education contest winner and given the opportunity to replace old devices with new, state of the art ones that use less energy.

Students and staff are very excited about the potential use from our Staples Canada prize purchase. We have embraced the new technology devices made available to us from this contest and look forward to utilizing this new technology in this year's environmental projects and into future years as well.

We thank Staples Canada for their support of Hillview School's environmental projects and providing funding to purchase new technology devices to assist in our pursuit of strong educational, environmental and academic achievements."

Duncan McColl, Principal
Hillview School



Holy Name of Mary Academy, Lawn, NL

"Thank You just does not seem adequate enough to convey how appreciative we are with regards to winning the "Recycle For Education" contest. Coming from a small school like ours we do not always get the latest technology nor the opportunity to purchase all the things we have always dreamed of. Staples has made this possible for us.

Winning the Recycle for Education contest has helped our students because it provided them with the latest technology that is being used on a regular basis to cover curriculum outcomes in a way that is educational and fun. Since September we have students in our primary and elementary classes creating their own puppet shows, using Imovies and even helping students on an individual basis who need extra supports to grasp certain outcomes. Our Eco Kids group are planning to create a short video, using our new video equipment which will be used to apply for another contest to help us create a biodiversity garden and outdoor classroom. Using our Staples winnings, our school now has great internet access which gives all our students endless possibilities and opportunities found in many schools throughout our province. Winning this contest has been a life changing experience for all members of our learning community.

Our HNMA Eco Kids are even more motivated to create a school environment that is green and to pass this information along to other schools and community organizations in hopes that we can "Pay it Forward." Our motto is "A Little Does a Lot" and this motto was definitely proven true for our small group.

Thanks again for making this rewarding experience possible and we assure you that we will continue to promote, encourage and motivate others to create a school and a community that is environmentally friendly because the students are the ones that need to be educated about taking care of our world and making it a better place for everyone."

Students and Staff,
Holy Name of Mary Academy, Lawn, NL





E.L. Crossley Secondary School, Fonthill, ON

“Needless to say we are honoured to receive one of the Staples 2013 Recycle For Education computer labs. Since joining the Ontario EcoSchools Program we have worked diligently to reduce our ecological footprint and can’t tell you how much it means to have our work recognized by your esteemed panel of judges. Computer lab space is always at a premium in our building and with this prize we are able to provide our staff and students with a mobile laptop cart and thirty laptops that teachers can take to their classrooms. We also have a new lampless LED projector, laptop and motorized screen in our lecture hall which is used daily. Winning this contest validates what we do as a school to make the world a greener place, and encourages us to continue to implement our green ideas. The support of our entire school community is the driving force behind our successful environmental initiatives, and this prize package gives back to those who support our work and has the potential to benefit every student in our building.”

Ed Goerzen, Principal & Sharon Keller

E.L. Crossley Secondary School



Helene de Champlain Secondary School, Longueuil, QC

“The hardware that we won made a difference in the entire school. Our students have access to quality equipment and teachers have a computer system that can support our projects.

With the iPad, classes are much more interactive, which impacts motivation and perseverance. In a school specializing in special needs such as ours, the needs of students are very extensive. Students will have access to laptops with software that can help them learn. The “Recycle for Education” contest enhances the educational scope of many of our projects related to the environmental efforts by school staff and students in the context of our Coop project (community garden).

Thank you Staples (Bureau en Gros) on behalf of the students and staff of our school. You make a difference!”

Serge Caron, Principal

Helene de Champlain Secondary School

Brought to you in collaboration with



Earth Day®
CANADA



Ten Ways Canadian Students Are Going Green

As you prepare your 2014 Recycle for Education Computer Lab Contest submission, here are 10 ways Canadian students are going green – courtesy of our 2013 winners – to get you inspired:

1) “Today’s Learners, Tomorrow’s Leaders”

A group of Grade 3 classmates at Campus View Elementary School in Victoria formed the Green Team, which has been instrumental in setting up EarthFest, an annual event that encourages students and families to respect the planet through educational stations and eco-friendly arts, crafts and games. This year, they have enlisted University of Victoria professor – and Nobel Prize winner – Andrew Weaver to speak about climate change and intergenerational equity.

2) “Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful committed people can change the world”

Members of the Leadership Program at Windermere Community Secondary School in Vancouver certainly live by Margaret Mead’s words. They plan large-scale events throughout the year, including the Climate Change Conference, a one-day symposium with workshops and presentations focusing on social responsibility, environmental stewardship and community engagement.

3) “We are the change we want to see in the world”

Through community support, Hillview Elementary School in Edmonton purchased resources and literature on conservation, the environment and energy, encouraging students to get informed and involved. Hillview also added artistic programs to their curriculum, including the creation of original green-themed songs, resulting in a five-concert tour with Juno-winning singer/songwriter Peter Puffin.

4) “Do the right thing”

A few years ago, M.E. LaZerte High School in Edmonton joined the UNESCO Associated Schools Network, mandated to provide education on sustainable development, and expanded the scope of its green efforts. After introducing a number of environmental projects, including a paper-recycling program, composting and a battery-disposal initiative, the school was presented with the Zero-Waste Award by the Recycling Council of Alberta.

5) “Encourage people to do what they can, one step at a time”

Students and staff at École Saint-Avila in Winnipeg turned part of their school grounds into an expansive rain garden by planting native trees and plants that helped improve water quality. This initiative garnered so much attention that the principal and the parent committee co-authored a guide book on how to improve school grounds, and shared it with every school in Manitoba.

6) “Reduce, reuse, recycle”

Serving some of Hamilton’s most disadvantaged youth, Parkview Secondary School teaches self-sufficiency by using its greenhouse to grow herbs and vegetables that are used to prepare lunches. Another great example of living the 3R principle is the school’s “Excyte” program, in which students use an environmental business model to create products such as furniture and jewelry from recycled resources.

7) “Good planets are hard to find”

The passion and commitment of students and staff at E.L. Crossley Secondary School in Fonthill, Ont., to making the world a greener place comes through in the numerous environmental programs they have implemented, which led them to join the Global Ozone Project – becoming the second Canadian school to participate in this international effort aimed at collecting data to establish a global ground-level ozone bank.

8) “Taking the environment to heart”

As a school for students with severe behavioural and/or developmental learning disabilities, Hélène-de-Champlain Secondary School in Longueuil, Que., has introduced a number of initiatives, including horticulture classes, rain water collection and using solar panels to power its sprinkler system, to teach about ecology in an interactive way. The efforts of staff and students have earned the school the “Coup de Coeur” Award from the Quebec Federation for the environment in 2012.

9) “Environmental initiatives just make sense”

When it came to planting trees for their school grounds, students at Notre-Dame-de-Liesse in Saint-Eugène-de-Guigues, Que., chose fruit trees so that once mature, they will be able to prepare healthy snacks and desserts for the community. The school also established a garbage-reduction campaign called “Occupe-toi de ta boîte!” in which they minimized the amount of garbage disposed of in the cafeteria by more than 60%.

10) “A little does a lot”

Inspired by a former student who was involved in the Copenhagen Climate Summit, students at Holy Name of Mary Academy in Lawn, Nfld., decided to take action. They formed the Eco-Kids group, whose activities include organizing walk or bike-to-school days, as well as the distribution of LED light bulbs to homes in the community. In a rural town, the Eco-Kids group is a way for students not only to learn about climate change, but also to travel and share their knowledge.



Brought to you in collaboration with



Earth Day®
CANADA