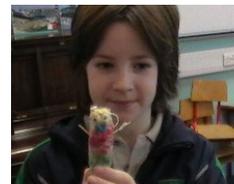


Good Shepherd National School



Green News Edition 6, Spring 2011.

We are continuing our work on Recycling, Energy and Water for our three current green flags. Now, our assessment for our fourth Green Flag for Travel will take place on Monday the 14th March 2011.

- At the beginning of our school year mass, at the Good Shepherd Church, we presented our golden boot and a globe of the world, as symbols of our work to keep our world green.
- Our Green School Coordinator, Ms Jackson, attended a **travel meeting** organised by An Taisce, to learn more ideas about our travel theme.
- At our Green School meeting in October, we re-visited our action plan and added new targets with completion dates. Check out the Green School Notice Board.
- Tammy Connors (4th) and Christina Lomo Garrett (3rd) were appointed secretaries. They keep the minutes now, to help us remember our decisions.

Walk to School Travel Surveys

We carried out follow-up Travel Surveys for An Taisce with the whole school. We have updated our **travel graphs** with this new information. On an on-going basis, Leon Foley (6th), Jordan Hickey (5th) Jake Gayner (3rd) and Ryan O'Brien (4th) have been filling in our Walk to School **Travel Survey booklets** every week recording our travel patterns. Jake Gayner (3rd) and Orla Slattery (3rd) have been recording the water and electricity meter readings every month. Amy McDermott (2nd) makes sure the Walk to School survey sheets are in their proper place every Tuesday. The Golden Boot Award is awarded to the classes with the highest percentage of walkers, gleaned from this information, and is presented by Adam Valentine from Ms Lynch's class at our assemblies each month.

The Golden Boot Award and Golden Cycle Awards

Following on our cycling safety training courses and our new 20 bicycle parking spaces from the cycle parking grant, given courtesy of An Taisce, we decided to add our Golden Bike Award to our Golden Boot Award. One Green School Committee member in particular, worked especially hard making a Golden Bicycle last term. This is another special award to be given out to the best cycling class for the month. If you find it in the sixth class classroom, since they are the current winners of the bicycle award. It is now simply glittering. Thanks to Orla Slattery (3rd) who worked hard to make it gleam. The Golden Bicycle is awarded now to the best cyclists in our school. Irish rail now allow bikes on the dart and rail outside of peak times.

Walking Bus

This is a novel idea which, with your help, could happen. When children and parents are walking to school, they often meet en route and end up walking and talking together. The Walking Bus is a group of school children who walk to and from school at set times with set 'stops' supervised by some or all of the parents, or guardians who volunteer to take part. This enables young children to walk who otherwise would have to be dropped to school by car. A parent or "driver" is at the front and a parent or 'conductor' is at the rear. Parents take it in turns to escort each other's children to or from school. The bus follows a set route each morning and evening with agreed pick up and drop off points at or near pupils' homes. (Ratio 6:1). An Taisce offered to meet with interested parents about running this. If you would like to get involved, please email principal@goodshepherd.ie or inform your child's teacher.

Thanks to everyone for filling out the **Travel Maps** to show the walking route taken by the children coming to school. We know from our pupil feedback, that some of you are now doing **Park and Stride** where you drop the children off close to the school and let them walk to the school. Maybe you could talk to parents who you see travelling on the same route, and consider car pooling. This will save you money and time and also help the environment. The EAL class are still practising for **the film** they hope to make on travel. Some shots have been taken but it's in very rough form at the minute.

Fill the Van Recycling Project

Our **'Fill the Van'** recycling project takes place again this year on **May 5th 2011**, after the Easter Break. The scheme aims to encourage textile recycling by exchanging bags of clothes for cash. The money we raise will help Mrs Quin's Charity Shops and the National Council for the Blind of Ireland as well as keeping these items out of landfill. **YES PLEASE** to good quality

clothing, sheets, towels, curtains, shoes and handbags. **NO THANKS** to soiled clothes, duvets and pillows. You can fill a black refuse bag and place it on the stage. We will accept donations on Tuesday 3rd and Wednesday the 4th of May. Please do not bring anything in before or after these dates - thanks for your co-operation.

Recycling and Energy Workshops

One of the funniest parts of our travel plan was our visit from **Marvin the Magician** on the 5th of November 2010. He had a bird called Billy who was very mischievous but helped him with his tricks. Marvin reminded us how to recycle the magic way. Thanks to the Anti-Litter Grant for this initiative. Check out his blog here: <http://www.magicianmarvin.net/BloggPage.html>.

We also took part in a fantastic energy workshop on the 19th of November. We used a generator bike which we cycled and this enabled gadgets like food processors, hair-dryers and electric bulbs to work. We did a science experiment to see which bulb needed the most effort, cycling the generator, to turn on. The best bulbs to use were the eco-friendly ones, needing far less energy to work. Some of the Infant Classes **made lovely drawings of our workshops** which we made into **books** for you to view. They are on display in the Green School Area. Maybe your child's drawing is in one of them!

Thanks to everyone who submitted fantastic entries for our **Christmas Recycling Decoration Competition** last December. Martin Hancz' entry from 3rd class was chosen to represent our school in the competition with his train made from recycling material. He became one of the stars of the RTE2 News2Day programme shown on the 12th of December 2010 around 5pm. Members of the Green School Committee and Martin visited Dun Laoghaire to receive his award. David from Ms Gorman's Class, passed on the award which he won last year, to this year's new winner, Richelle Mabal.



Our school representatives: David and Martin, with his recycled train decoration.



The RTE2 Crew In Action.

Events for Your Calendar

Sunday 20th February and 13th March **Bird Watching** at Booterstown Marsh 10am. Meet in Booterstown Dart Station Car Park

Sunday 27th February **Ducks and Swans**: 11-12.30 Marley Park Meet at main car park.

Sunday 27th March **Make a Hanging Basket** 11am-1 pm Deer Park meet at the playground.

2011 is International Year of the Forest. Every two days an area the size of Co. Cork is lost.

National Tree Week 6th – 12th March. To help with a "tree event", contact Helena McGorman 2054300 or e-mail hmcgorman@dlrcoco.ie.

For a list of events log onto www.treecouncil.ie and www.dlrcoco.ie/parks websites.

An Taisce Green School Travel Assessment for our school Monday 14th March 2011

Earth Hour 8.30pm 26th March 2011 Mission: to heal the soil where you can and leave it alive.

National Spring Clean April 2011.

Fill The Van Our School Tuesday 3rd and Wednesday 4th May. Collection Thursday 5th May 2011

Remember our code: Bí Glas Bí Glan!

Sarah Jackson
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Principal

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