

LESS to LANDFILL CHALLENGE, TERM 3 2014



**16 CLASSES RECEPTION TO YEAR 7
TOTAL NUMBER OF STUDENTS = 408**

| | TOTAL | COMMENTS |
|---------------|------------|--|
| WEEK 1 | 316 | Boys loved using the minibins as measuring cups but were quite appalled at the amount of rubbish they produced |
| WEEK 2 | 268 | Many discussions were had about what items created the most waste |
| WEEK 3 | 171 | Students in each class set themselves goals to reduce packaging and find more ways to recycle |
| WEEK 4 | 163 | Youth Environmental Leaders monitored the use of the recycle stations |
| WEEK 5 | 143 | Classes became very competitive. All boys- what do you expect! |
| WEEK 6 | 107 | All very pleased with the final results...but the challenge continues! |

FEEDBACK on CHALLENGE

Emailed directly to me and also collected by Youth Environmental Leaders

Robyn- School Garden Coordinator

Now that the waste challenge is nearly over, I thought it would be a good time to organise a 4myearth fundraiser. It's one way of cutting down on the plastic glad bags which you mentioned are the main items in the general waste. Money raised could go towards SEMP initiatives. 4myearth have asked that all orders be placed before Nov 10th as they are closing for Christmas. I'm happy to coordinate so it happens beforehand, or we could leave until next term. I'm also happy to set up a display showing all different types of compostable, reusable packaging, as alternatives to throw away. I don't sell them all, but have some good contacts, who I'm sure will offer the school good discount.

RGA

In Week 2, the RGA boys recognised that the bin was being filled at brain food time mostly by the individual yoghurt containers. Conversations were had and the boys asked their parents not to have yoghurt or some parents took up the offer of purchasing the refillable yoghurt containers.

The boys have become very aware of the 10c collection crate and use it well.

The straws from the 10c fruit containers were an issue but on researching a solution we now have a milk container in the classroom in which we collect the straws and the lids off the yoghurt packs. These will be recycled at my place.

We are using class dojo as an incentive as well: you can get up to 3 dojo points across the day for no rubbish brain food and /or no rubbish recess and /or no rubbish lunch. A cute conversation from today was when Luke asked me if he could collect his dojo point for no rubbish recess. I said what did you have for recess? He replied: a banana and two Freddos. I said but Freddos have wrappers? He responded But I took the wrappers off before I came to school! I said Go get your dojo point!! Upstairs for thinking!

The boys have also been trying to squish their alfoil (mainly from lunch order hotdogs) to create less landfill space. I found out on the weekend that if you make a large alfoil ball you can put it in a tin can and recycle it that way (but it must be big) – guess what we started today?

I have noticed that the individual yoghurt containers are making a return to some lunch boxes – easy option!

The last thing I would like to share is the way the language has changed around rubbish. Firstly the boys think about what they are throwing away but they are also asking questions such as: is this landfill or can it be recycled? Or ... does this go in the general waste bin or can I reuse this? I am very impressed with the way they have taken this challenge on board. Many parents have commented on their boys asking not to wrap food in gladwrap or as Luke did, leave the rubbish at home.

1AW

The boys enjoyed the challenge of reducing our daily waste and were already very aware of supporting composting (with our Worm Farm) and paper recycling.

First, we took our class rubbish bin out and made small individual bins for our desks out of Polydrons or recycled materials. If that bin was empty at the end of the day it was swapped with a smaller peppermint tin container. When that container was empty at the end of the day it was traded in for a micro mini bin the size of a small Kinder Surprise container. Over the weeks every boy succeeded in achieving 'Micro Mini Bin Status'. We recorded our tallies daily and the boys built a graph to represent our progress.



At first I thought it an impossible task, but with incentives and concerted effort we managed to reduce our waste down to practically zero in the last few weeks.

Comments from the boys:

Micky- "The cleaners can be quicker at work because we have less rubbish."

Alex- "We have nice new bins now."

Luca- "We are helping the earth because we are throwing less rubbish out. Less rubbish goes down into the earth and gets washed down into the water and it's less stinky rubbish so that helps clean the air."

Louis- "I don't like it....I LOVE IT!"

PATRICK from 1NR, 3ES and RBA

How did you find it? Difficult at first. 1nr hard because they didn't know what went in what. Rba extremely hard you weren't using re useable things. 3es

What was the most common form of waste? Lunch orders 1nr youngest containers and glad wrap rba tissues food wrappers 3es

How did you manage to reduce your waste? To reuse things 1nr the food scrap tub helped lots rba stoped putting paper in the bin. 3es

OSCAR from Year 5,6 and 7

How did you find it?

A little bit hard

Easy

Fun

Hard to get people involved

Ok

Challenging

Simple

Helping for our school

Hard

Interesting

A good experience

What was the most common form of waste?

Lunch Bags

Tissues

Plastic

Mandarins

Bananas

Glad wrap

Zip lock bags

Crusts

Alfoil

Pencil Sharpenings

Tissues

Yoghurt containers

Plastic

How did you manage to reduce your waste?

Not very well

By taking rubbish home

By reducing it

Putting it in a different bin

Use less wrapping

Reusable Containers