School Outreach activities

In addition to year-round activities, the environmental committees are involved in two major events during the year - Environmental Awareness Week in October and International Earth Week in April. The environmental committees plan creative ways to promote environmental awareness through fun activities that are age-appropriate and engaging.

Below are some examples of the programs that are being promoted by our local schools and their environmental awareness representatives:

Central School

- Walk past Central school during Environmental Awareness Week or Earth Week and you just may see the fabulous recycled art that the Green Team made from various plastics.
- Central School’s Environmental Awareness chairs team up with the Green Team comprised of teacher leaders and students to develop ideas for EA week and Earth week in order to promote student education and leadership.
- Environmental Awareness week (Fall) included a walk to school day which culminated in a before-school dance party, chalk at recess for earth themed messages, waste free lunches all week, open garden days, a lights out day and a “Green" spirit day. , they have been working to promote no-idling around the school.
- Central School plans on conducting its first "sports equipment swap".
- The school recycles markers through the Crayola program as well they have run shoe and holiday lights drives to keep these items out of our landfills.
- Central School’s Green Team collects batteries, cell phones, printer cartridges and other e-waste materials throughout the year to be recycled properly.
- Central School has also participated in the village wide DOT program (a promise to Do One Thing for the environment) Sample messages: I can drink water from reusable water bottle, I can turn off lights, I can use less water, I can buy less stuff, etc.)

McKenzie School

- The McKenzie Environmental Awareness committees ‘greened’ all of their 2016/2017 PTA events which entailed collaborating with each PTA event chair to reduce the amount of potential waste created while also recycling and composting at the event.
- The Environmental Awareness members have worked with the enrichment Ignite chairs, teachers and principal to implement environmental awareness programming into the enrichment schedule at each grade level; i.e. SWANCC, SCARCE, Polar Expeditions, etc.
- The school also participates in the International Walk/Bike to School Day each year. In addition, they have been working to promote no-idling around the school.
- McKenzie has done shoe, battery and holiday lights drives as well as Halloween costume swaps to keep these items out of our landfills.
- The Plastic Bag Monster visits the school a few times per year!
- McKenzie School also participates in the village wide DOT program (a promise to Do One Thing for the environment) Sample messages: I can drink water from reusable water bottle, I can turn off lights, I can use less water, I can buy less stuff, etc.)
- McKenzie has a student Green Team!

Romona School

- Romona School has a Waste-Free Wednesday program in place. Through this program students can fill out a raffle ticket every month, and the winners can pick from a variety of reusable lunch containers and water bottles. This promotes awareness for recycling and reusing.
- In addition, their Red Dot system is up and running. This is a system to reduce paper and toner usage by only sending home one mailing per family (versus per student) when a school-wide mailing needs to go home. This saves over 100 copies each time the system is used.
- The school also participates in the village wide DOT program (a promise to Do One Thing for the environment) Sample messages: I can drink water from reusable water bottle, I can turn off lights, I can use less water, I can buy less stuff, etc.)
- For Halloween, they participated in a Halloween costume donation drive.
- Romona has a student Green Team!

Harper School

- Harper participates in the International Walk/Bike to School Day each year. In addition, they have been working to promote no-idling around the school.
- Harper has run shoe, battery and holiday lights drives as well as Halloween costume swaps.
- Harper celebrated Earth Day with a week of activities. The EA Committee acquired nearly 400 free reusable bags from local businesses to promote plastic reduction.
- The school also participates in the village wide DOT program (a promise to Do One Thing for the environment) Sample messages: I can drink water from reusable water bottle, I can turn off lights, I can use less water, I can buy less stuff, etc.).
- The Plastic Bag Monster visits the school a few times per year!
- Harper has a student Green Team!
Highcrest Middle School

- HMS continues to participate in the Trex Plastic Bag Recycling challenge (http://www.trex.com/recycling/recycling-programs/) and came in second place nation-wide in 2017!
- The Environmental Awareness members collaborated with the enrichment Ignite chairs, teachers and principal to implement environmental awareness programming into the enrichment schedule; i.e. www.joeyfinerhyme.com for a climate change assembly, Solar Service Inc in which a speaker talked about renewable energy and more specifically solar energy.
- HMS has a student Green Team!

Wilmette Junior High School

- WJHS participates in the International Walk/Bike to School Day each year.
- The EA rep created a bulletin board displaying the impacts of CO2 emissions and its direct correlation to climate change which was displayed on a prominent bulletin board at the school.
- Students signed a pledge to reduce the amount of waste they create on a daily basis.
- Wilmette Junior High School PTO representatives created a bin in the lobby that visually demonstrates the amount of plastic bottles used by the students.

The school has created monthly “green themes” with accompanying recycling and collective drives and opportunities for students to learn about an environmental topic. One theme was food waste with a drive to collect for the New Trier Township food pantry. Another was “Fast Fashion” looking at the inefficiencies of the disposable fashion