



“Green Team” and Teacher Morris lead Garden Oaks recycling

Last school year, Garden Oaks Elementary School teacher Susan Morris established what was to become the school’s extremely successful “Green Team” to encourage recycling on campus. The initial group consisted of around 15 students from the 3rd, 4th and 5th grades. They met every Friday afternoon.

To establish the recycling program, Ms. Morris sent out an email to all teachers asking them to personalize a box for recycling in their classrooms. She also asked the teachers to encourage their students to place recyclable waste paper in the boxes during the week.

On Friday afternoons, the teachers placed their boxes outside their classroom doors at dismissal time, when Green Team members would fan out across campus to collect the boxes, consolidate the waste paper and transport the paper to the recycling dumpster on campus. Classroom recycling boxes were stored in Ms. Morris’ classroom over the weekend. Teachers picked up their boxes on Monday mornings.

The program began slowly. To increase participation, prizes were awarded for the best decorated recycling boxes.

Soon the momentum picked up and most of the classrooms were recycling. New recycling dumpsters arrived during the year allowing aluminum and plastics to be added to the collections.

The future:



It’s a green thing.

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IDEA FACTORY & HOUSTON ISD COUNCIL OF PTAs

The Green Team even helped at the school’s Montessori Pancake Breakfast by making signs to encourage the recycling of water bottles, and then collected all the recyclable material after the event.

Another teacher, Lindsey Pollack, furnished trash-grabbers for the Green Team. With the grabbers and after their recycling duties were completed, the Team would fan out across campus to pick up litter.

And there you have it: A good idea and good leadership by a good teacher, responsive and responsible kids and another miracle on one of our school campuses. Nice going Ms. Morris. Nice going Green Team.



And then there’s the other ‘green’ issue: Scholarships

Your Council of PTAs was able to award five \$1000. scholarships to students from member schools this past year. Recipients were: Shalonda Knight, Madison H.S.; Lucretia Stanfield, Barbara Jordan H.S.; Patrice Johnson, Kashmere H.S.; Cindy Salgado and Sergio Lira, Chavez H.S. Hurray for these achievers!!

THE ULTIMATE HEADS UP: One of our main events of each year is the FOUNDERS DAY LUNCHEON in the spring. Be on the lookout for a bulletin with full details soon.