

Sara Bender Lucknow Sentinel

Brookside Public is participating the "Who is Green?" project. The students are completing several environmental activities at the school.

Brookside participating in new project "Who is Green?"

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Brookside Public School is taking 'green' initiatives to another level.

This September the school started a new project called "Who Is Green?" The program supports EcoSchools and green schools' initiatives by giving simple steps that help students discover their strengths and use them to help the environment so that their

green projects are environmental and personally meaningful. The program was developed

by Kelly Clark, an Ontario teacher, after she graduated from the University of London, England, and supply taught in elementary and secondary schools across London,

England and Toronto, ON. Students grouped together to perform projects in the school that involve the 3-Rs - reduce, reuse or recycle. Also, all students worked together to plant 20 new trees and 50 tulips at the school.

Each class completes a scrapbook that documents all of their environmental activities. The school is also given a green doll

called "anybody" and the school's job is to turn it into "somebody" by attaching items onto it that represent each project - such as a shovel for tree planting.

The 'Who is Green' initiative shows that 'anybody can be somebody who is green' and is a great way to give recognition to these hard working students. For more information about the program visit www.whoisnobody.com.

Being 'Green' is nothing new for the students at Brookside. Here are some of the 'Green' things student do around the school each and every day:

One group of 25 students, from all Grades, called the Milk Bag Crew, have taken on collecting milk bags to make into sleeping mats to send to Haiti. Milk bags are cut into strips then crocheted to create mats, which are washable, repel bugs and provide an alternative to sleeping on the damp, bare ground. A single mat, about a metre wide and more than a meter long, is made up of strips from 260 milk bags.

Mara Cutting said they cut the milk bags into strips during their second break, each day, and roll them into balls for Mrs. LeRoy to crochet. Hayley Gibson said they have made 30 balls, about the size of a basketball, so far this year.

The Compost Crew, made up of seven students from Grades 6 and 7, spend their second break collecting small compost pails from each classroom then dump them into a large compost bin outside. Crew member Jason Barger said they each collect a pail from a classroom and dump it out everyday, then every Friday they wash out the pails.

The Recycling Crew of Dylan Ulrich, Brayden Smyth and Ben

Nelson sort the recycling material from each classroom, every week at second break. Smyth said they sort the recycling - paper and cardboard - and make sure everything in each recycling box is strictly recyclable material to be sent away.

A five member team of Grade 5 and 6 students are Tree Waterers. Everyday on their second break, team member Cody Westecott said, they ensure the newly planted trees and tulips are watered.

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The Tree Waterers make sure the 20 new trees planted at the school this year stay healthy everyday.

There's One in Every Crowd

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Students hope to win board competition

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For the Garbage Monitoring Crew, it may be a messy job, but somebody has got to do it. As part of a competition between all schools in the Avon Maitland School Board, a team of seven Grade 6 students have been auditing the garbage from each classroom.

Garbage Monitoring Crew member Sadie Scott said after the first break, they pick up the garbage from Grades 4, 5 and 6; pick out the compost or recycling materials from all the bags, to ensure it is all strictly garbage; and then weigh each bag. The school that has the least amount of garbage wins \$1,000.

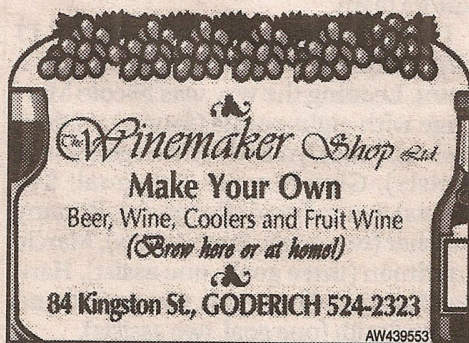
Grade 7 students Carly Stutzman and Sarah Alton are in charge of presenting the Golden Garbage Can Award to a different classroom each week. The pair keeps track of how much garbage each class has during the week then award a classroom with a trophy at the end of the week.

The Milk Carton Crew collects milk cartons from each class after second break, then wash them to be picked up weekly by a recycler, said member Ashley Forester. The recycled milk cartons are turned into cardboard boxes and tissue paper.

The team of Taylor Humphrey, Luke Hendriks, Brandon Murray and Dalton Black are Terracyclers. Humphrey said everyday after first and second break they collect drink pouches from each classroom and wash them to be sent to a recycler. Hendriks said they have collected 200 pouches so far and once they reach 250 they will send them to a company called TerraCycle. The company

converts the drink pouch material into unique fashion bags, tote bags, pencil cases and other items and pays \$0.02 per drink pouch to the school.

Laura Jakobsen and Kenzie Simpson, Grade 8 students, make announcements for the school during the second break, giving messages, facts, poems or tips on how to stay "green" at school, home and in the community.



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