Seven Things I Learned at School

Tamar Hurwitz, Sr. Environmental Specialist
Lesson One – Teamwork is Essential

Alone we can do a little. Together we can do a lot.
Becky Wike Goyton
2000-2007
School Ed Coordinators

Becky Wike Goyton
2000-2007

Rachel Pomerantz
2007-2016
School Ed Coordinators

Becky Wike Goyton  
2000-2007

Rachel Pomerantz  
2007-2016

Josie Dominguez Chand  
2016-2019
School Ed Associates & Aides
Choosing the right frame works wonders.
Let’s Look at…

Zero Waste
Why Should We?

Reduce
Reuse
Recycle
Landfill. Landfill. Landfill.
Animals Touch our Heart
We All Need Nature to Survive
A Powerful Frame that Works

Let’s protect nature!
Never underestimate the importance of having fun.
Phoebe the Phoenix
Food to Flowers! Assemblies
I care about the environment. I compost with Phoebe the Phoenix:

Astrid
Luis
Arlen
Kiara
Matthew
Roberto
Leilani
Fernando
Bryant

Alejandro
Lucia
Yanira
Jasmin
Irvin
Christian
Abdi
Jada
Ashley
Raya

Jaehn
Aurora
Allie
Jackson
Aleva

Jami
Vanessa
Van
Bryan Lopez
Poster Contests

Where you toss it makes a world of difference.
STOP LITTER.

Artwork by: Jonathan Tohno, Age 5, Kindergarten  
Sanchez Elementary School  
Teacher: Nancy Gillnston

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我们实践堆肥。
因为在我们关注环保。
Nosotros separamos los residuos orgánicos en el contenedor verde para cuidar el medio ambiente.

Artwork by: Hannah Sun, 3rd grade  
School: Sutro Elementary  
Teacher: Richard Hig

堆肥的另一种说法就是回收食物残渣。  
Separar los residuos orgánicos es una manera de reciclar las sobras de la comida.

SFEnvironment.org (415) 355-3700

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Field Trips
Lesson Four – Be Supportive

What the Mayor wants, the Mayor gets!
First “Stop Litter” Assembly
100th Food to Flowers! School
Mayor’s Earth Day 2015
Mayor’s Earth Day 2016
A good reputation leads the way.
Consulting with Other Municipalities

Australia   Brazil   Canada   China   Italy   Mexico
Food to Flowers

A California program is showing kids how to recycle school lunch leftovers into food for plants.

You know that eating a healthy lunch is good for you. Now your lunch leftovers can be a healthy food source for plants! A program in San Francisco, California, called Food to Flowers! is turning leftover school lunches into compost—a natural fertilizer for plants. California has lots of other ideas on how to reduce, reuse, and recycle almost everything.

What Is Compost?
Compost is made in a natural process that breaks down organic matter. Organic matter is anything that was once living. Leaves, grass, paper (which comes from trees), and most types of food can be turned into compost. The organic material is mixed together. Small living things called decomposers start to break it down almost immediately. Insects, earthworms and other worms, and fungi are all decomposers. They live in the organic material. Over time, decomposers turn the organic matter into a dark, crumbly material that looks like soil. It is full of good things that help plants grow.

How Food to Flowers! Works
Food to Flowers! places big green carts in school lunchrooms. After lunch, kids toss in all their leftover food scraps and soiled paper products. A local waste hauler takes the carts filled with lunch scraps to a nearby composting facility. There leftovers are ground up into very small pieces and turned into compost. Some of the compost is sold to local organic farms. Some is also given back to the schools to use in their gardens.

Composting turns leftover food and paper products into something useful that is also good for the environment. The same leftovers would otherwise be hauled off to big landfills as trash.

Other Great Ideas for the Environment
Food to Flowers! may not be available in your school. But another program, called Waste-Free Lunch, was created for every kid in every school. When you pack a waste-free lunch, you cut down on plastics and other non-recyclable materials that are tossed into the trash. —Lisa Jo Rudy

Here’s How to Pack a Waste-Free Lunch

Do Include
- Sandwiches in reusable containers
- Whole fruits without packaging
- Drinks in containers that can be reused, such as thermoses, or recycled, such as cans
- Snacks bought in bulk and brought in reusable containers
- Reusable cloth napkin
- Reusable utensils

Don’t Include
- Individually wrapped snacks
- Plastic bags that are not reusable
- Disposable forks and spoons
Recognition is a wonderful thing.
Poster Contest Awards
Annual School Award Ceremony
Our actions shape the future.
Middle School + High School Outreach
Thank you!

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