

THE Greenhouse News

A program for growing and nurturing green minds



PRIMARY SCHOOLS ENVIRONMENTAL NEWSLETTER

TERM 1 2009

LEAVING SMALLER FOOTPRINTS

GREENHOUSE THEME FOR 2009

How many hectares does it take to sustain you?

The 2009 Greenhouse Program will see us exploring the concept of ecological footprints and finding ways that we can *Leave Smaller Footprints*.

What is an Ecological Footprint?

Ecological footprints are a globally used measurement of how many hectares of land are needed to provide the resources used by each of us. It takes into consideration all aspects of our life which contribute to our resource use including food choices, waste management, energy use, transport choices and home construction.

At this stage Australians in general have a relatively high and unsustainable ecological footprint. The 2009 program will provide students and schools with the means to calculate their footprint and will then examine the major areas of our lifestyle that influence this figure. Activities



and projects are based around initiatives that will lead to a smaller footprint, they will be fun, hands on and informative for both parents and students.

The Greenhouse Program

The Council's Environment Program is a great vehicle for boosting the environmental education in your school. If you are just developing this aspect of the schools teaching, this offers a comprehensive and all inclusive package. We will supply you with information, activities, on going support, competitions for students and at the end of the year - a fantastic morning of entertainment where the work of school's and students is acknowledged and rewarded. For schools already active in environmental education this program will enable you to expand your program and provides further opportunities for your students.

We hope to see your school participating this year.

most importantly, all helped to reinforce the theme of 2009.

It was fantastic to see the different ways that schools incorporated the theme into their school curriculum and made it part of everyday school life. This approach reinforces to students that caring for the environment is a life long endeavour rather than a one off project.

Lastly praise needs to go to all the students who submitted projects. The quality and quantity of projects was very high last year making choosing a winner very difficult. Rest assured however, we will never complain of too many projects. Bring them on!!



2008 WINNERS

Large, Medium and Small School of the Year

NIAGARA PARK P.S.

PRETTY BEACH P.S.

CENTRAL MANGROVE P.S.

Congratulations to all of the schools and students who participated in The Greenhouse Program in 2008.

It was great to see so many schools enthusiastically take up the *Reduce before Recycle* challenge, especially those new to the program. Like previous years the awards ceremony showcased a wonderful variety of performances from the hilarious blues brothers of Central Coast Grammar to the inspiring musical piece of Pretty Beach. All performances were wonderfully entertaining and



PROGRAM COMPONENTS

School Competition - We are looking for the environmental School of the Year. The winner is determined on involvement in the program and overall environmental ethos of school and students. Great prizes are to be had.

Performance - Schools are encouraged to create a short performance or oral presentation based on the theme. Selected items will be invited to perform at the Awards Ceremony at Laycock St Theatre.

Project Competition - This is a student based activity with a different project set for each stage. Schools are welcome to make this component compulsory, voluntary or part of class work. Judging is undertaken by Council and great prizes are awarded to the winning students of each year level.

School Activities - A resource book of ideas and activities will be given to all participating schools.

Awards Ceremony - This is a fantastic day were winning schools and students are recognised and we showcase some of the performances. This ceremony will be held at Laycock St Theatre on Monday, November 30.



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COMPUTER GAMES

WITH A TWIST OF GREEN

They are fun, free and they get kids thinking about the environment

As athletics has shown us computer games can be enormously education and fun at the same time. Here is a quick review of a few environmentally based onlines games

Energy Hog

www.energyhog.org

Fun way to learn about what uses energy in the house and how much. Have fun identifying energy hogs and getting rid of them from your house. Easy game, though beginning involves reading ability.



Planet Slayer

www.abc.net.au/science/planetslayer/

Watch short cartoons and then put your own planet saving skills to the test. Will you save it or slay it. Better for older kids and with greenhouse

EARTH HOUR

HOW TO CELEBRATE AT SCHOOL

Now a global action - be part of it.

Originating in Sydney just 2 years ago the Earth Hour campaign has now gained global attention with more than 50 million people in over 538 cities, towns and villages across the globe expected to participate this year. Earth hour is a sign that individuals can make a difference. By switching of your lights for one hour you can show that you care about our planet, that you can make a difference and that you are prepared to make changes to do so.

Earth hour can be experienced at school, not just by turning lights and other electrical appliances off but by using this day to educate students on the issues of climate change and global warming

THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT'S STIMULUS PACKAGE.

This package will soon see some much needed cash coming into schools. While most schools will have no shortage of ideas on how to spend this money we urge you to consider environmental initiatives when making up your shopping list.

WATER SAVING IN SCHOOLS PROGRAM.

Don't forget about this grant. Gosford City Council offers schools grants of \$5000 to fund water saving initiatives within the school. For further information contact Mikell Borg - 4323 2477 or go to: www.gosford.nsw.gov.au/water_and_sewer/water-savings-in-schools-program

gas calculators in built, it compliments this years Greenhouse Program theme.

Eco Quest

http://activism.greenpeace.org/eco_quest/?MM_URL=EcoQuest

Three rescue missions await you - the Irrawaddy dolphins in Asia, elephants in Africa or reindeer in Scandinavia. Great for young children and fun way to understand the plight of endangered species around the world.

and how individuals collectively, can make a difference. A fantastic teacher resource has been developed and is available for downloading. It includes curriculum based activities with clearly identified learning outcomes and syllabus links for stages 1 to 6. Posters, worksheets and activities are all available in PDF format.

Show students that they can make a difference. In 2007 when this campaign was launched 2.2 million people and 2100 businesses in Sydney turned their lights off for one hour. This resulted in a 10.2 per cent drop in energy usage across the Sydney CBD or 24.86 tonnes less of CO2 emitted into our atmosphere. Imagine what a difference the 2009 global participation will make. Register your school and be part of that difference!!

For more information and educational resources:

<http://earthhour.smh.com.au/earth-hour-every-day/at-school>



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IMPORTANT DATES

Awards Ceremony

- Monday 30 November

Other Important Dates

March

- 21 - Harmony Day
- 22 - World Water Day
- 28 - Earth Hour

May

- 3-9 - Composting Awareness Week
- 15 - Walk Safely to School

June

- 5 - World Environment Day
- 8 - World Ocean Day

July

- 5-12 NAIDOC Week
- 31 Schools Tree Day

August

- 2 - National Tree Day
- 25 - 31 Keep Australia Beautiful

September

- 7 - National Threatened Species Day
- 19-21 - Clean up the World

October

- 2 - Walk to Work Day

For more information

contact our Environmental Education Officer,

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