

TrashMasters!™  
Team **Up** to Clean **Up**



Intermediate School Division  
Brooklyn Borough Winner


**Dyker Heights IS 201**

NEW YORK CITY DEPARTMENT OF SANITATION  
**2004 GOLDEN APPLE AWARDS**

This certificate is awarded with the sincere appreciation and esteem of  
a grateful Department and City in recognition of your school's efforts  
to help make New York City shine.



City of New York, Michael J. Bloomberg, Mayor  
Department of Sanitation, John J. Doherty, Commissioner

  
John J. Doherty, Commissioner  
June, 2004



# *A Tale Of Trash*

*A Story Written By The Students of I.S 201*

TrashMasters  
TeamUpToCleanUp  
Project Binder

TrashMasters!  
TEAMUpTOCLEANUp

# *A Tale of Trash*

*A Story Written*

*By*

*The Students of Dyker Heights I.S. 201*



New York City  
Department of Sanitation  
Golden Apple Awards  
2004



## Project Description For *Team Up to Clean Up*

Our students were excited to be participating in the Golden Apple Awards this year. Recycling is very important and children can learn so much about our world and our environment as they become aware of the issues involved with pollution and recycling. By participating in a project such as this, it becomes a clever way to introduce writing, math and science concepts in a realistic and meaningful manner.

The children were very eager to start, but what to do? It had to be something exciting, something original, something that would have lasting value. They came up with a great idea. Why not write a book about recycling so that other children could learn about the topic and see how important it is to recycle materials and create less waste.

The students began their project by going to the library and the internet to find information about New York City, pollution and recycling. The amount of information available was overwhelming. It was important for them to understand that even though pollution and garbage are big problems there are solutions and you can make a difference. The boys and girls spent several days sorting through the facts and organizing useful details. They were especially impressed by messy statistics like the fact that it takes one hundred years for a diaper to decay and yet one baby could go through as many as eight thousand diapers in its lifetime. One student vowed to invent a diaper that was really disposable! They were also shocked to learn that a big city like New York only recycles 18% of its garbage while a city like Seattle recycles more of its garbage. Reading and understanding informational materials is part of the New York State Learning Standards but the student were having too much fun to know this.

The next step was to develop a storyline and create characters. In our story three teenage children learn that they can make a difference by pitching in and doing community service. They begin their adventure by doing community service that has been assigned to them as a punishment. They have to clean their local park. In the park, the kids meet three “magical” animals who help them to understand who is affected by garbage, how it affects our environment and what they can do to help. The teens in the story are so enthused that they continue to do community service on a volunteer basis. They organize and sponsor a recycling awareness week in their school. They also publish a newsletter to inform their classmates about what kinds of things can be recycled in their homes and at school.

Art often imitates life. Our real life students did everything the characters did. Our students sponsored a recycling awareness week. They published a newsletter and created posters and artwork to teach kids how to reduce, reuse and recycle. They also volunteered to help clean and beautify our school garden. However, our real life students did something more. They created a book which will be shared with the sixth grade classes. A copy of the book will be given to each of the sixth grade teachers to keep in their class library. Our school is also going to publish a few copies to give to several elementary schools in the Dyker community.

Within our school the project has been very successful. Several teachers have requested copies of the newsletter to read with their science classes and special education classes. The sixth grade teachers have also requested that the eighth grade authors of the book come into the class to do an author read aloud for the children.

Overall, even if the students do not win this awards competition, they learned a great deal. We enjoyed putting this project together. Our hope is that you enjoy it too!





# A Tale of Trash

Written by  
The Students  
of

Dyker Heights IS 201

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# *A Tale of Trash*



*An Original Story  
Written by*

*Diana Amador*

*The ESL Students of IS 201  
for the 2004 Golden Apple Awards*

## Chapter One

### *The Dare*

Have you ever done something foolish just to look cool? Let me tell you the story of how three kids learned how to be cool, but still do the right thing.

Our story begins with three students: Mike Turner, Jennifer Garcia, and Shun Wu Min. They are eighth graders at Dyker Heights Intermediate School 201. It is lunch time and the three friends are talking.

"I can't believe we got caught for doing such a stupid thing!" Jennifer moaned, as she pushed the glasses that were sliding off her nose.

"What did you want me to do? They dared me. If we didn't do it we would be the biggest chickens in the school." Mike replied.

"And it didn't help when you threw the can of spray paint and it hit the cop. Lucky for us you didn't knock him out" Jennifer added.

"I didn't mean to do that. I told you, it was an accident. I didn't know that he was standing there." Mike whined feeling very embarrassed.

"And what idiot picks lunchtime to do graffiti?" Jennifer said angrily.

"I'm sorry," Mike apologized again "I just didn't want the other kids to think I was a chicken." Mike bends down to adjust the laces of his very expensive sneakers. They were new and it was important to look cool. He had a reputation to protect. "Anyway, thanks for sticking with me even though you guys didn't do anything."

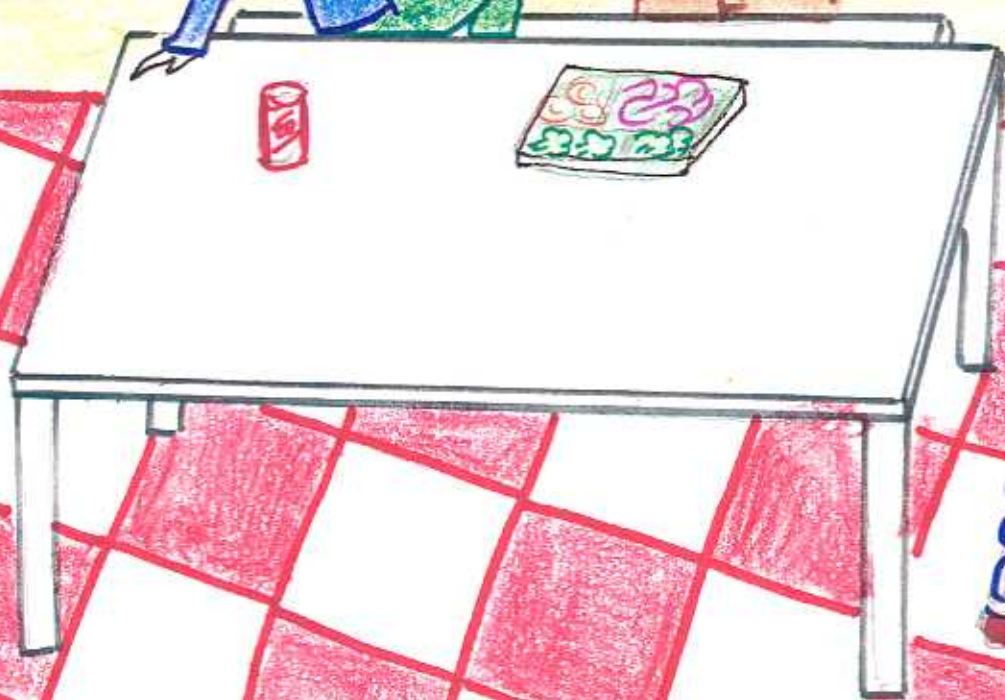
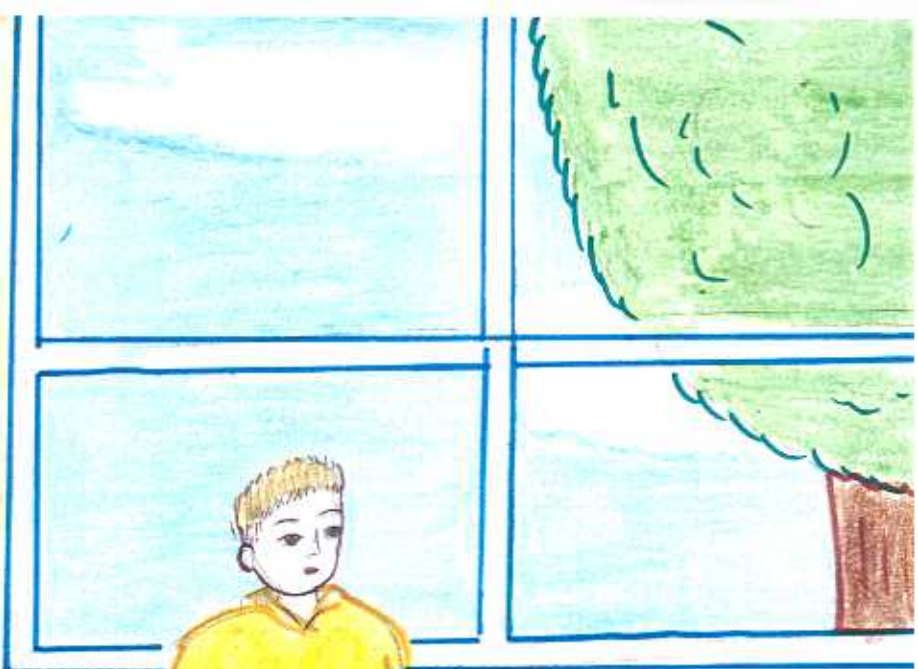
"You owe us big time buddy." Shaun answers "Now we have to do two whole weeks of community service and I've been grounded for life. I can't believe I have to help clean up that dumb old park everyday after school. I don't even clean my room"

"Be happy. At least you can still go to the library"

"Oh brother" Mike and Shaun rolled their eyes."

"And we didn't get suspended with only two months to go before graduation" Jennifer finished saying.





Diana  
Anisova





## Chapter Two

### Crime and Punishment

Later that day we find the three friends at Dyker Park doing their community service. They are wearing green plastic jumpsuits, black rubber boots and yellow plastic gloves. They are carrying large black plastic bags behind their backs and a large pole with a sharp pointed stick at the end. They are not happy!

"Yuck! Look at this outfit. I'm wearing plastic!" says an upset Mike.

"Don't complain you got us into this mess. Ug! This is so gross. Look at all this garbage. This is all your fault!" Jennifer says angrily as she picks up a banana peel to throw at Mike's face. The peel hits him on the shoulder. He takes the slimy peel and throws it back at her. Jennifer ducks and the peel misses her; instead it goes into a knotty hole in the middle of a tree. Now this particular hole is the home of Snappy the squirrel who is now completely covered from head to fur in squishy banana peel. A screaming, jabbering squirrel jumps out and starts yelling at the kids.

"Hey!!! Watch it!! How would you like it if I threw garbage at your home?"

The children all froze.

"Did that squirrel just talk?" Jennifer asked.

"Gee, I think it did." Said Shaun "Mike? .....Mike?"

Mike couldn't answer. He just stood with his mouth wide open. He couldn't believe what he was hearing.

"Of course I can talk. My name is Snappy. Would you mind telling me what you are doing here and why you are throwing trash in my home?"

"Uhh....Would you mind telling us why you can talk?" Mike asked when he could finally talk.

"I'm a tree sprite."

"A tree what?" They asked.

"A tree sprite. It's my job to watch over the trees and the woodland animals in this park."

"So, you're not really a squirrel!" Mike says.

"What are you doing here?" Snappy repeated.

"We got stuck doing community service because we got caught spraying graffiti." Jennifer responded

"No, I mean what are you doing?"

"Oh, we are supposed to be cleaning the park." She says.

"Really? It doesn't look like it." Snappy answered.

"Well cleaning the park is stupid." Says Mike.







"Cleaning the park is not stupid. It's important and it has a lot more lasting value than doing graffiti. "

"Oh great, now I have a squirrel lecturing me! A TALKING squirrel! This can't be happening. You're sure my mom didn't send you?"

"I know you don't believe me but I want to show you something. Come, follow me!"







## Chapter Three

### SHOW AND TELL

Snappy leads the children to a small clearing where they had a view of the Verrazano Bridge and Staten Island. From the clearing they were looking directly at a former garbage dump across the river.

"Do you know why you were cleaning the park?" The squirrel asked.

"Yeah 'cause our brilliant friend got us into trouble and he like to throw cans at people?" Shaun answers.

"And Bananas too" Jennifer adds with a giggle.

"No, it's because we have too much garbage and there's no place to put it all" said Snappy.

"What do you mean? We put it in garbage cans" Mike says but then Jennifer shoots him a dirty look and he started to stammer "Umm....I mean...well...sometimes we do"

"Do you know what happens to your garbage after you throw it out?"

"I guess it goes to a dump, right?"

"That's right but just imagine, the average American produces up to four pounds of garbage a day. "

"So?"

"So that's twelve pounds of garbage just between the three of you today. Now start doing your math. Multiply three pounds of garbage for every kid in your school, then for every kid in Brooklyn, then for all the kids in the city. It adds up to a lot of garbage. In one day we could produce enough garbage to fill up the Empire State Building."

"I don't get it. Why is this a problem?"

"He's bad at math. " Jennifer shakes her head sadly.

Oh come on Mike! Even I get it" Shaun says impatiently

"What.....?"

"Look across the river. That's what Snappy is trying to show us."

"Yeah, don't you remember in Science class when we learned about the environment?"

"No, I think I fell asleep that day. Tell me."

"Well Ms. Martinez explained that not all garbage breaks down at the same rate. A **banana peel** will take only two or three days to break down. Some things like metal, batteries, and plastic bags can take fifty to a hundred years to decay. A glass bottle can take up to a million years to break down, maybe more." said Jennifer.

"What she's trying to say buddy" Shaun says putting his hand on Mike's shoulder "is that you and I will be long gone, but our unrecycled garbage will be around forever."

"Yeah, that's why we have to clean up and recycle."

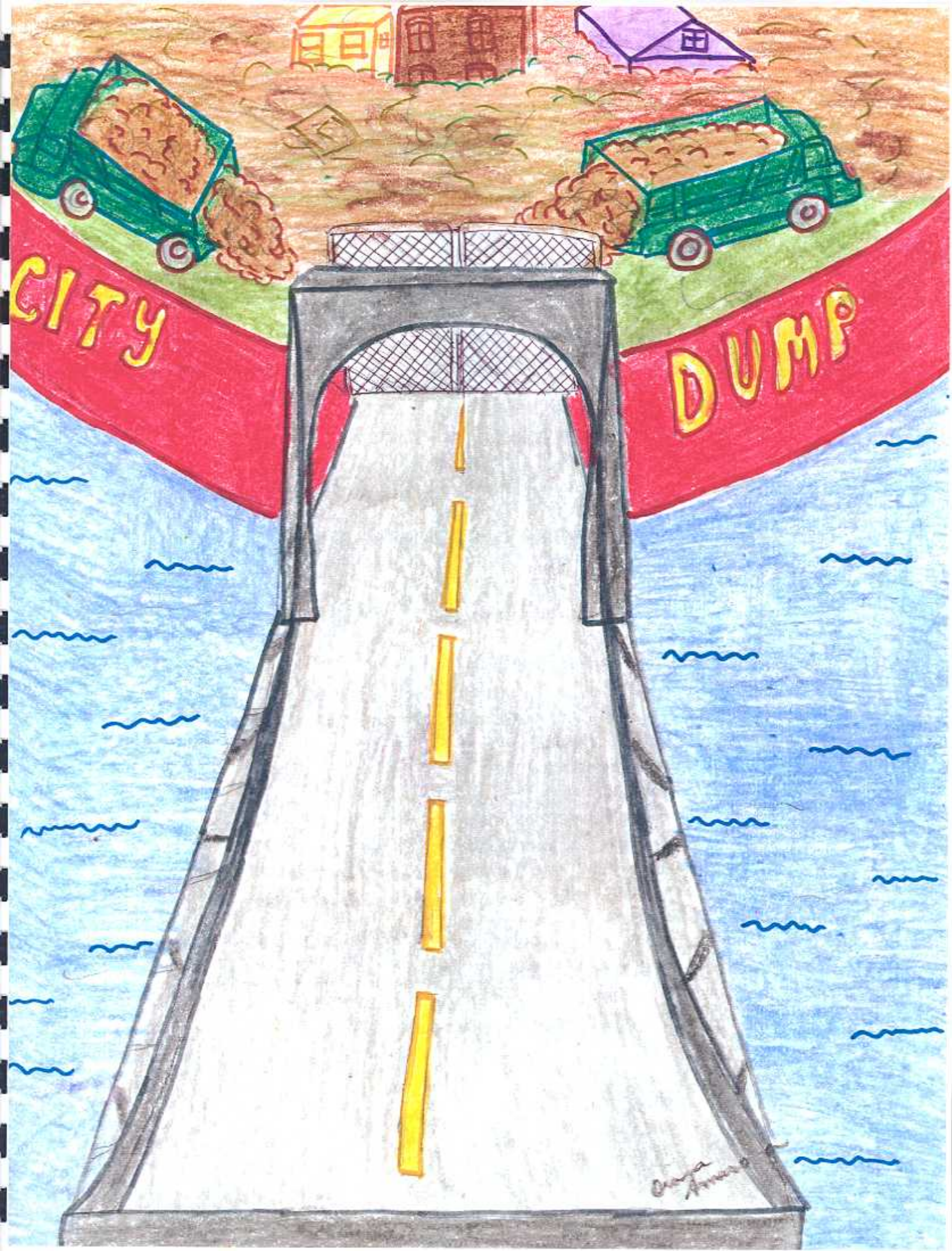
"How do you two remember all that?" asked a slightly confused Mike.

"We stay awake" Shaun grins.

"I don't know about Shaun but I remember because I care and so should you!" Jennifer huffed.

"I agree," says Snappy. "If we don't reduce, reuse and recycle our city is going to become one huge garbage dump."







## Chapter Four

### *The Next Day*

The next day the children go to the park where Snappy is waiting for them.

"Hi Snappy!" They say.

"Hey kids. It's good to see you. Come over, there is someone I would like you to meet"

"Kids, this is my friend Benson. Benson is one of the Guardians of the Skies. He can talk too."

Shaun looks at Benson with interest. "What kind of bird are you Benson? I've never seen a bird like you before."

"I'm a falcon. I guard the skies because I have very sharp eyes. I can spot trash trouble quickly."

"It's nice to meet you." They say politely.

"It's nice to meet you. Snappy has told me a lot about you. I hear that you are cleaning the park. This is a good thing and you should be really proud of yourselves."

"We are. We really want to help now, but I still don't know how cleaning up one little park helps?" Mike shrugs.

"Oh brother" Shaun and Jennifer grumble.

"It helps because it is a start. Did you know that New York City produces about 11,000 tons of garbage a day?"

"Wow! But why don't we just burn it and get rid of it?"

"It sounds like a good idea but just imagine burning 11,000 tons of garbage a day. It will increase air pollution and make our city air even worse than it already is."

"What can we do with all the garbage then?"

"We can *Reduce, Reuse* and *Recycle*"

"See, I told you" Jennifer said with a smirk.

"What exactly does that mean?" Mike asked.

"Reduce means that you try to create less garbage. Let's say that two kids walk into an ice cream shop. One kid orders a cup of ice cream. The other kid orders a cone. Who's making less garbage?"

"Oh, I know" says Jennifer "The one with the cone, right?"

"Correct! There is no garbage left when you eat the cone. The other child has to throw out a cup, a spoon, and a dirty napkin; more garbage."

"Cool! What else can we do?" They all cried.



BENSON!

Kuvaldina Alexandra.



“Try to buy products that come in recyclable containers. It’s easy. The containers already tell you if it can be recycled and some packages are even made from recycled materials. Reusing things also cuts down on garbage but the most important thing is to recycle.”

“What can we recycle?” They ask.

“Old glass, plastic bottles, metal cans and paper can be recycled to make new bottles, cans and paper. People just have to remember to separate these things and put them in clear or blue recycling trash bags.

“So, every little bit counts? Huh” Mike asks

“If everyone does their part, the smallest things can make a big difference. I see a great future for all of you and I should know. I’m a falcon”



## Chapter Five

### A Rescue

Two weeks later the three children returned to the park. They were filled with excitement and a new sense of purpose because they knew they were doing something special. Today, they were cleaning up; not because they had to, but because they wanted to. They had already finished doing their community service.

Snappy came to see them. "Hi kids! Would you like to visit the pond with me?"

"Sure. What's at the pond?" They asked.

"I'm going to see my Princess."

"Is that your girlfriend?" Shaun asked.

"No, she's a frog. She just happens to be a Water Guardian and her name just happens to be Princess. She's also my friend." Snappy answered shyly. He didn't mind getting teased because he liked Princess and the kids already guessed that.

"Uh, oh, sounds to me like another talking forest friend." Shaun joked. They all laughed.

They came to a small, green pond at the edge of the park. The pond looked cool under the shade of some tall, slim trees. It was spring and the trees were covered with little pink and white flowers that fell to the floor like confetti any time a breeze blew by. Golden fish and lilies filled the pond. It would have been beautiful except that there were some cans, bottles and trash floating near the surface of the pond. The kids made a mental note to take care of this problem.

Suddenly Jennifer noticed something strange. "Hey!" She said "Don't look now but I think that bag is hopping."

"No way" said Shaun.

"Give me your stick, I'm going to try to fish it out" Mike takes the stick and reaches out to spear the bag. "Ouch!" came a voice from inside the bag.

"Would you watch it?" Jennifer grabbed the black plastic bag and spilled it out onto the grass. Out popped a beautiful, golden frog with lovely brown eyes.

"Ribbit! Oh thank you for saving me. Ribbit! I thought I was going to drown!"

"Princess, Is that you? What happened?"

"I was swimming along, ribbit, minding my own business, ribbit, when all of a sudden I found myself trapped in this plastic bag ribbit."

"So, what did you do ribbit?" Mike joked

"That's not funny Mike!" Snappy yells "She could have drowned because someone got careless with their garbage."

Mike felt terrible. "I'm sorry Snappy, Princess; I didn't mean to hurt either of your feelings"

"It's OK Mike. You didn't mean it, ribbit. It's just that people don't understand that when they don't throw out their garbage properly or they don't recycle, it can affect the environment and animals, as well as humans, ribbit"

"We understand that now Princess. We just don't know how we can make others understand too?"

"I have an idea" Jennifer said "We should start a recycling awareness week in our school to give kids information and let them know that they can make a difference"

"Yeah!" Shaun says "We can make posters and write a news letter so that students can learn how important it is to recycle."

"That sounds like a great idea" They heard a voice call down from the sky. They looked up to see Benson circling above their heads. The sun was shining down. They could tell that he was smiling. They all were.











## **Chapter Six**

### *Graduation*

The day the children have been waiting for has finally arrived. It is graduation day. The three friends are sitting together in the auditorium talking softly and excitedly waiting for the diplomas to be given out.

"Wow, I can't believe how successful our idea was!" Jennifer states.

"Yeah, can you imagine; more than half the school showed up to help us clean the park." Shaun says proudly.

"Snappy was right. Graffiti is stupid. It doesn't have the same lasting value as doing something good. Our wall has been painted over. It's gone! But what we are doing now; that's for the future. Our future." said Mike.

"Mike, I think that's the smartest thing I've ever heard you say!"

Mike quickly jabs Shaun in the shoulder.

"Will you two be quiet I think Mrs. Brennan is going to talk." Jennifer says

The school's Principal steps up to the podium and begins announcing special awards for achievements. She smiles broadly and says "My dear parents and students, personally I am very proud to announce this next award. These three students have done a lot for our community. They began doing community service as a punishment but then they turned a punishment into a success. They have organized our school into doing volunteer work at Dyker Park. Our Park is so clean now that the Borough Park president has personally thanked our school for their excellent service. I'm honored to give these special golden Dyker Heights Community Awards medals to: Mike Turner, Jennifer Garcia and Shun Wu Min"

Everyone begins to clap and cheer. Without anyone seeing, Mrs. Brennan looks down at a space beneath the podium. She smiles and winks.

"Our kids did great, didn't they Snappy?"

"They sure did Mrs. Brennan. They sure did!"

Snappy turns to us sitting in the audience and says "I hope you liked our story. I know I enjoyed telling it."

## **The End**





Aysha.



*Mike Turner*

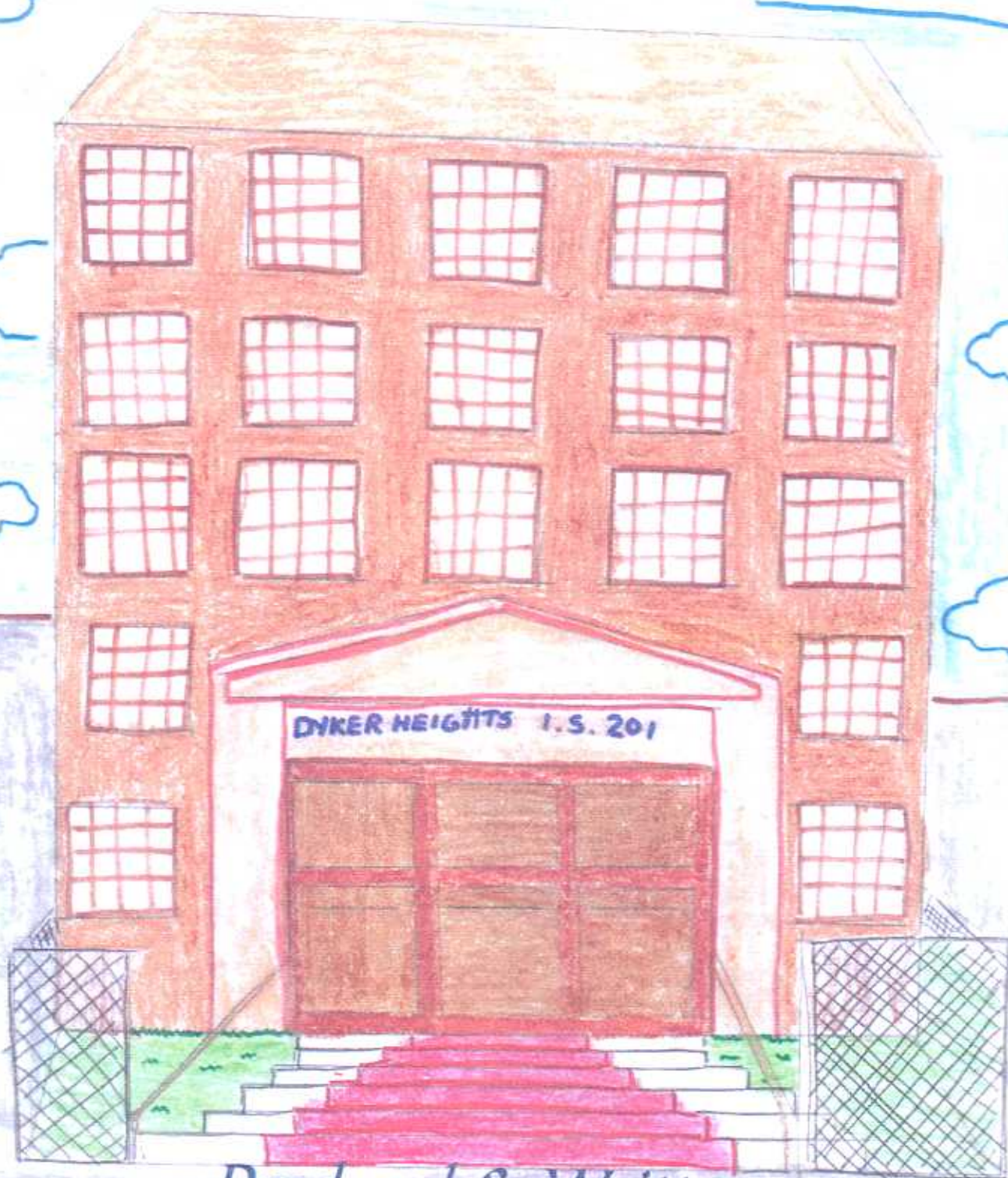


*Jennifer Garcia*



*Shun Wu Min*





*Produced & Written  
By  
The ESL Students of IS 201*



# The Recycling Times

Volume 1, Issue 1

3/30/04

## Is The City of Seattle Better Than The Big Apple?

By Brian Fang



We recycle as much as we can, and use only the approved plastics.

Is Seattle better than New York City? When it comes to recycling Seattle sets the nation wide standard. Seattle's plan was to recycle up to 60% of it's waste by 2008. This is a very tough goal.

Critics of the plan say that recycling costs too much money and does little for the environment overall. Just last summer, NYC stopped recycling glasses and plastics in order to cut the city's budget.

Starting January 1st of 2005 recycling will become mandatory for all resident of Seattle. This city throws out about 72,000 tons of recyclable papers each year. The amount of money spent on recycling is amazing. Seattle is projected to have a net cost of \$272,000 next year. On the other hand, by 2007 a net savings of \$2 million dollars is expected. The more trash that gets recycled from the landfills, the more money the city will eventually save.

NYC produces 11,000 tons of garbage a day. We are running out of room to dump all this garbage. Our garbage sometimes travels as far as Pennsylvania and Virginia and we can't burn it because that will create air pollution. Yet we only recycle 18% of our garbage. We can definitely learn a lesson from Seattle. It will be expensive now but later it will be better for everyone.

### Did you Know...

- That A stack of old newspaper 3 feet tall can save one tree?
- New York creates enough garbage in one day to fill up the Empire State Building.
- An apple or banana peel takes 3-4 days to decay, a can will take 10 years, a diaper takes close to a hundred years to decay, but the worse is a glass bottle. This takes a million years to decay!
- It would take all the trees in Central Park to print one edition of the Sunday Times.

## Not All Plastics Are the Same

By Janeth Puma

Not all plastics are the same. This can be a big problem for people who want to recycle. Most people think that plastics can be recycled. They CAN'T!! Did you know that is recycled by melting it down in batches. Even a Small amount of the wrong kind of plastic can ruin the whole melt!

To find out if your plastic can be recycled, look on the bottom of the container or package. You will see as symbol with three

arrows and a number. A number 1 or 2 is good. You can recycle those. A plastic bag with a number four can be recycled, but watch out for other numbers. These can't be recycled.





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## Air Pollution by Diana Amirova

Air pollution is a major problem in our community, but what is Air pollution? Air pollution is a catastrophe we've created. Gases, wastes, and other things pollute the air. Factories dump their waste into the water, the water then evaporates, and all the chemicals go into the atmosphere. The major problem and cause of pollution is all the trash we burn.

So how can we prevent air pollution? The answer might be in recycling, reducing, and not being afraid to come up with new ideas. Recycling garbage is very helpful, it saves money, natural resources, and most importantly, our environment. We can reduce by try-

ing to make less garbage and buy products that can be recycled after words, for example approved plastic bottles and such. We can also reduce the release of fumes into the air by driving not alone, but with somebody who goes the same direction. That way you'll have more fun, and fewer cars not driven, the less fumes that are released into the air. We can also come up with new things that don't harm the environment. Things like electric powered cars or recyclable chemicals. You can help your community and the world by sharing your ideas about a safer environment.

So now it's up to you to decide,

should you make the right choice and use all the info above to help the earth become clean again or only worsen the situation, get sick, and cause the catastrophe to become even more dangerous.

Please make the right choice!

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## WHAT IS RECYCLING? By Stefan Jenkins

Do you know what recycling is? Recycling is the process of making something fit to be used again. Most people interpret it as taking used materials like plastic and paper, and making them usable again. Being able to recycle these materials is a great asset and usually it is an easy thing to do.

Your job is simple! First sort out the different materials. Plastic, paper and metal gets sorted into separate bins. The sanitation department then takes the sorted items to a recycling plant. Then they proc-

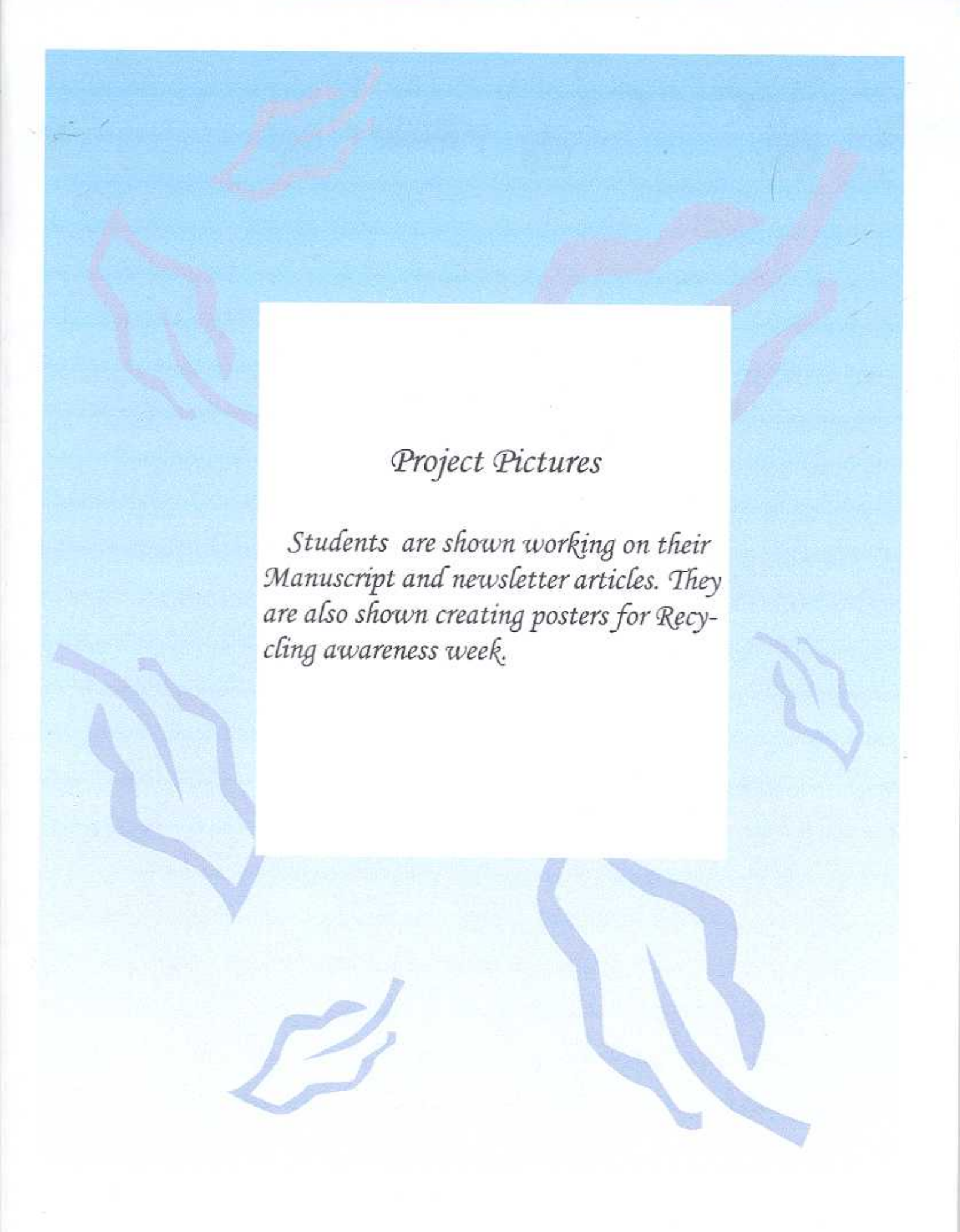
ess them, like compacting metal to usable state, or boiling plastic, so it can be remodeled. Then they can give these clean resources to people who use them to make the products that you buy. Recycling is essential to our survival. If you think about it you will see that if we keep using up our resources eventually we won't have any trees and landfills will



take their place. We need to take care of our environments because only by recycling and preserving our environments can we also help ourselves. So please recycle, you don't want to







## *Project Pictures*

*Students are shown working on their Manuscript and newsletter articles. They are also shown creating posters for Recycling awareness week.*



Christine & Myra



Myra



Editing with Diana



8<sup>th</sup> graders





*Franklin & Matt Editing*

*Students Conference*







*Creating Posters for Recycle Week*







*Our Art  
Work*



*Hanging Up Our Work in the Cafeteria*





Recycle Awareness  
Week







*Recycle Awareness  
Week*







## *Community Service*

*On Saturday, April 3, 2004 many of the students of class 815 and 753 joined together to help clean up and prepare our school garden for spring planting. We worked with Doctor Sharon Moore of the English Department and Doctor Brennan of the Math Department as well as Mrs. Margo Kelly of the PTA. The plot is being prepared to create a Shakespeare garden to help beautify the neighborhood.*



















