

TrashMasters!™
SUPERRecyclers



High School Division
Brooklyn Borough
Honorable Mention

School for Legal Studies


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

Grand Street Campus



**Environmental Justice
and Outdoor Club**

TrashMasters! Super Recyclers

School Number: 477K
School Name: Grand Street Campus

- School for Legal Studies
- School for Enterprise, Business, and Technology
- Progress High School for Professional Careers

Region: 8
Borough: Brooklyn
Grade Division: High School
School Address: 850 Grand Street, Room 152A
Brooklyn, New York 11211
Phone: (718) 387-2800 Ext 141
Fax: (718) 387-3281
Principal: Mr. Albert Vázquez,
School for Legal Studies
Coordinator: Ms. Rosa Cruz-Cordero,
CAPS Coordinator, NYUL
Email: RosaCruzCordero@aol.com
School Custodian: Mr. Terrance McCabe
Telephone: (718) 387-2800 Ext. 500
Participating Students: The GSC Environmental Justice
and Outdoor Club

Project Summary

A. Recycling at Grand Street Campus

1. Building Alliances with School Custodial Staff
2. Principal's Support: Purchase Bins

B. School and Community Awareness

1. Community Awareness Campaign
2. School Awareness Campaign

C. Continuing Efforts

1. Recycled Can and Bottle Sculpture
2. Children's Workshops



History of Recycling at Grand Street Campus

Introducing The GSC Environmental Justice and Outdoor Club

The Environmental Justice and Outdoor Club was established in 1999, as The Environmental Justice Club, by a group of environmentally conscience students from the School for Legal Studies. Last year, after winning the Trash Master! Reduce & Reuse Challenge, our club grew to include students from the other two schools that share our campus, with the help of the Leadership Program. This is the first time that students from the three schools work together on a school-wide project, except for school sports teams.

In the past five years, club members have participated in community greening and school beautification projects. We have conducted studies of truck traffic in front of our school and empty lots in our neighborhood. We partnered with Woodhull Hospital to hold health fairs and asthma awareness workshops for community residents. We have protested against truck pollution, proposed power plants and, most recently, waste transfer stations. The two highlights of our school year are our The Earth Day celebrations, where we do classroom presentations and plant trees and flowers on our front plaza, and our yearly camping and hiking retreat on the Appalachian Trail in the Delaware Water Gap.

We decided to participate in this year's Golden Apple Awards Contest because of our success in last year's competition. Little did we know how hard this year's project would turn out to be!

History of Recycling at Grand Street Campus

In 1999, the very first project taken on by the newly formed Environmental Justice Club was to establish recycling at Grand Street Campus. Through careful negotiation and support from the three Principals and our Superintendent, we were able to convince the Custodial Engineer of the value of recycling. (Actually, after a meeting with our Superintendent, the Custodial Engineer was informed of the possibility of being fined for not recycling.)

Recycling containers were purchased and club members made sure that they were distributed to each office and classroom. Students and staff were educated on the importance of recycling.

Last year we noticed something odd. The recycling containers were no longer lined with clear garbage bags. They were instead lined with regular black garbage bags so all garbage was now being deposited in either the blue containers or regular garbage cans. It wasn't until recently that we decided to investigate.

Environmentalist, Private Investigator

Several members of our club became private investigators. We observed that all garbage at our school whether in the wastebasket or recycling bins would be disposed of in one collection container, when the custodial staff would do daily garbage removal. We asked one custodian who told us that recycling wasn't enforced because there was no truck that came to pick up the recycling at our school. Another custodian told us he was not aware that recycling was required for schools. When I, Alicia Wade, Acting Vice President,

met with Mr. Terrance McCabe, Custodial Engineer, he told me that the real reason for the lack of recycling is that the students and staff do not separate their garbage appropriately thus a custodian has no choice but to throw everything into the regular garbage. The focus of our work then became clear. We must educate our school community on the value of recycling.

Educating Our School Community

We were happy to find that our, very new, Principal clearly understood the importance of recycling. As a matter of fact, he quickly ordered more recycling bins specifically for can and bottle recycling. He firmly believes that part of education is the development of a conscious citizen. He has asked us to decorate these bins in order to bring more attention to them. The first step had been achieved.

The following step would be to have students and staffs take an active role in recycling. We distributed announcements to every staff member at Grand Street Campus informing them of our project and posted fliers around the school to serve as regular reminders. We agreed with the Principal to work through the Science Department to hold lessons on recycling and its positive effects. These lessons will be held during our Earth Day Celebration at the end of this month.

The next logical step was to go through the four floors of Grand Street Campus and make sure that not only does every room, in this building built for 4,000 students, have a recycling container but that they are lined with clear recycling bags and not garbage bags. This task was tedious but it needed to get done.

We cannot say we are successful yet but with continued education through our Earth Day celebrations and teacher support, we know we will.

Educating The Williamsburg Community

We wanted to make sure that we not only educated our school community but also our surrounding neighbors. On April 1st, the EJ and O Club hit the streets to make people aware of the start of glass recycling. We posted and disseminated fliers throughout Grand Street, a local commercial area.

Current Projects

We were unable to finish the project that was dearest to our heart, before the deadline. We are in the process of building three chicken wire sculptures in the shape of a G, an S, and a C. We are using the plastic bottles and cans that we are collecting in the school cafeteria to fill the sculptures. The G, S, and C are our campus' initials and will be displayed across from our new field, just in time for the start of the home games of our winning Baseball and Softball Teams. (You can see an artistic rendition of our sculpture.)

Lastly, we are working with the BEACON Program to hold children's workshops on recycling beginning next week.



Doing Some Detective Work: Environmentalist, P.I.





Copy Room





Educating Our School Community

The Environmental Justice
&
The Leadership Program Out Door Club

**RECYCLE, NEW YORK BEGINNING
APRIL 1st 2004**

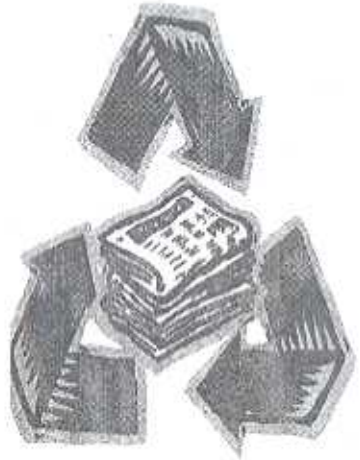
RECYCLE>>>> Glass, Aluminum Foil, Metal Cans,
Plastic Bottles & Jugs,
Beverage Cartons and Juice Boxes.
**IN CLEAR PLASTIC BAGS OR BLUE LABELED
CONTAINERS.**



RECYCLE>>>> Mixed Paper & Cardboard
**IN CLEAR PLASTIC BAGS OR GREEN LABELED
CONTAINERS.**

** For more information call the NYC Citizen Service
Center @ 3-1-1 or visit The Sanitation Department website
@ www.nyc.gov/sanitaion

Please Recycle

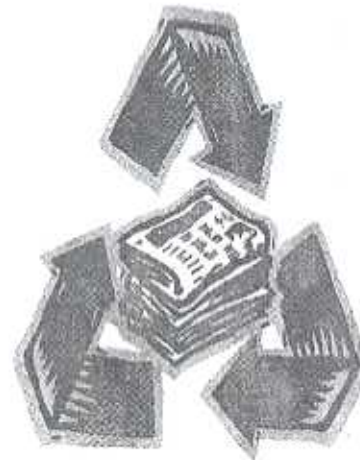


This announcement is printed on 30% recycled paper.

In the next few weeks, Environmental Justice and Outdoor Club Members, from all three schools, will be placing clear bags in the recycling containers.

Please make sure that both students and staff place only paper to be recycled in these containers or else they will be thrown out with the regular garbage. Please help us in this effort!

Please Recycle

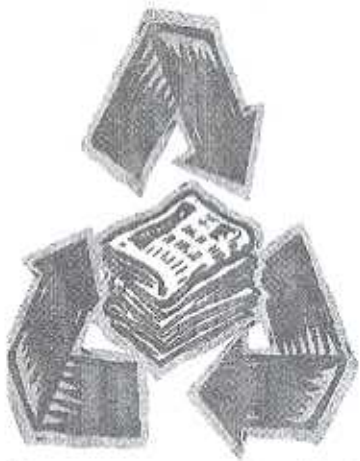


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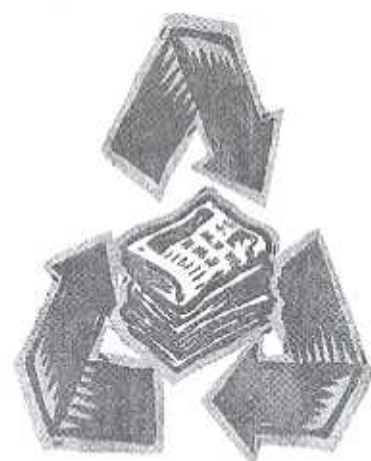


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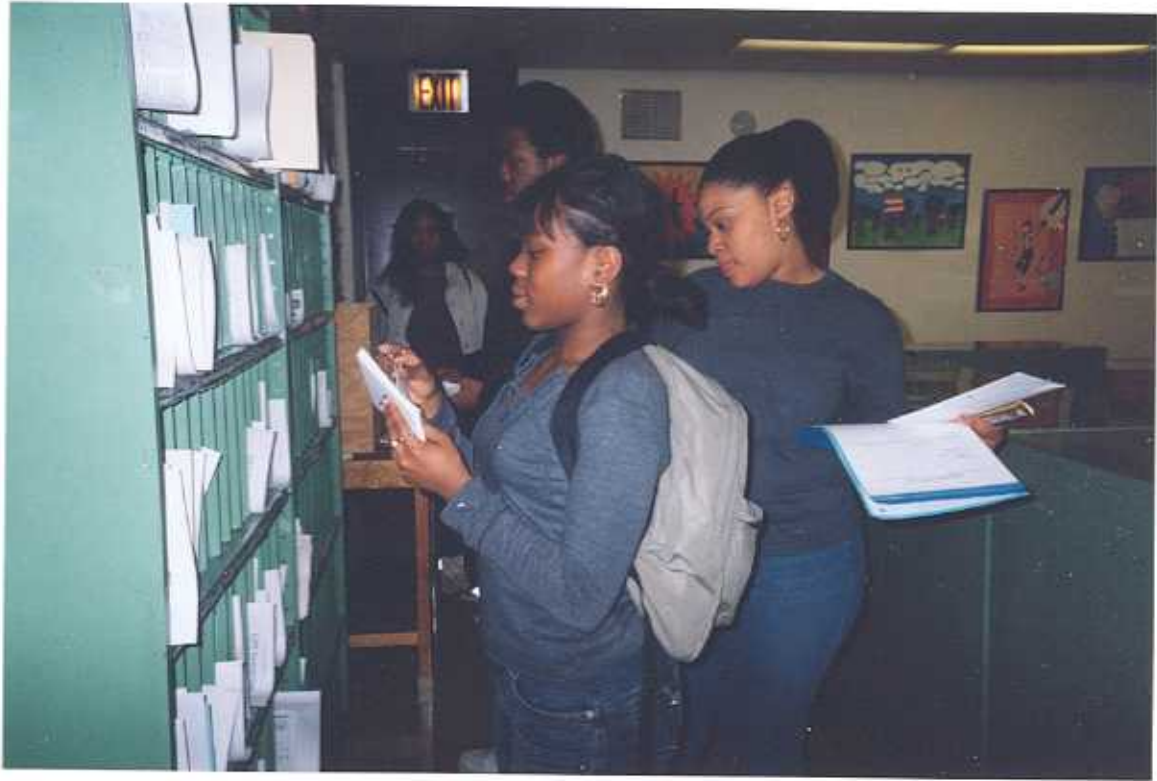
GSC Recycles!



**Place Paper Only In The
Blue Recycling Containers.**

This poster is printed on 30% Post-Consumer Recycled Paper
by The GSC Environmental Justice and Outdoor Club

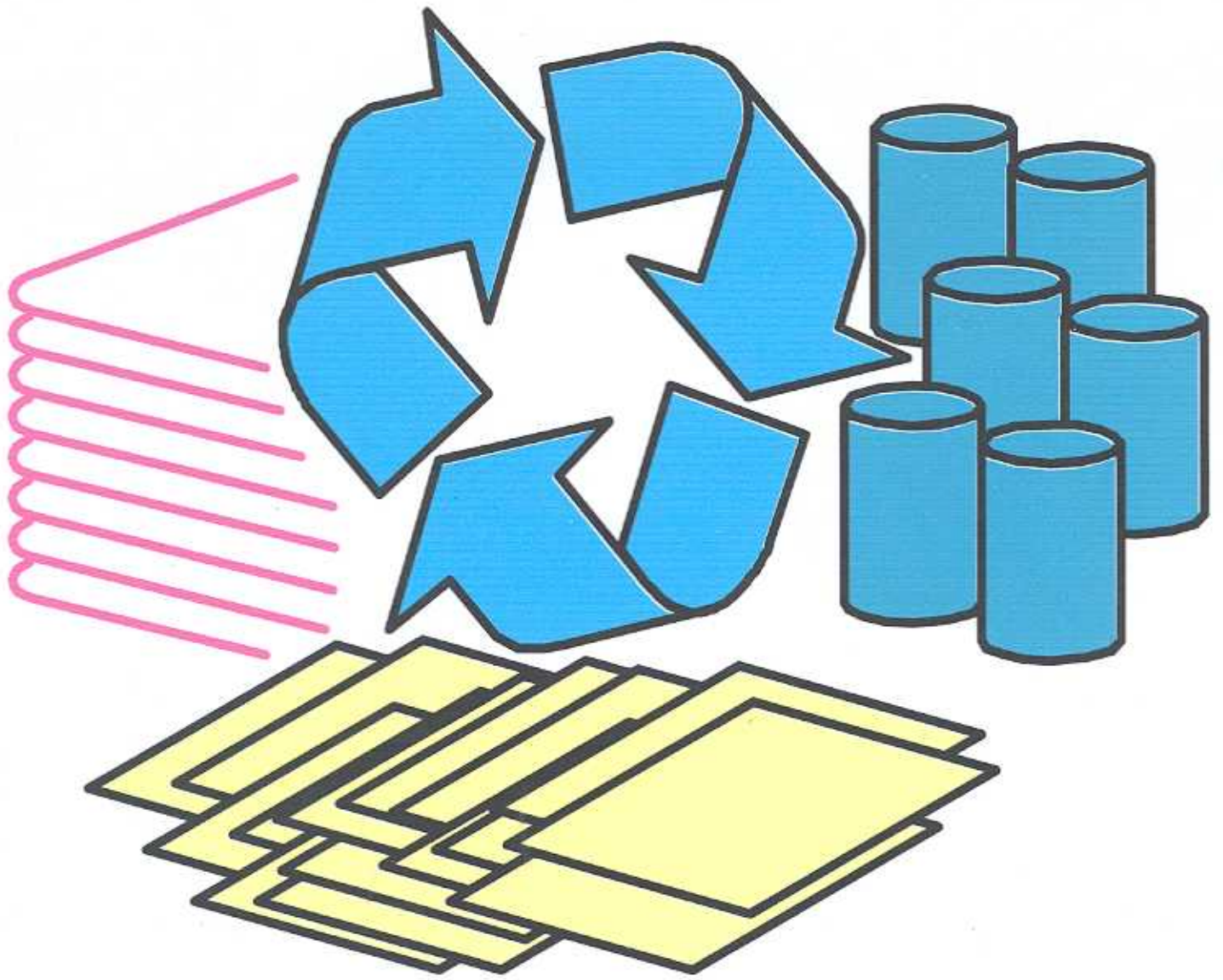






Recycling Returns To Grand Street Campus





Current Projects





