

Feb. 6, 2020

Dear Park Community Members,

Last year, Gardening raised over 650 dollars by collecting cans and bottles for our school's recycling program. We used that money to fund a grade-level pizza party, purchased plates and silverware and bought 3 Zero Waste boxes. We use the ZeroWaste boxes to collect non recyclables and send them to facilities that will recycle them. We send our recycling through the mail and they cost about 100-300\$ for each box. The boxes come with a lifetime of mailing fees waived so we can recycle as much as we want. In the lunchroom, we have a collection for candy, gum, snack, chips and bar wrappers....the colorful silver packaging that keeps foods fresh. We purchased a break room box and an office supply box for the teachers to use. So far, we are doing great, but we know we can do more!

Today, we had two assemblies for the Lower and Middle School students to teach them how we recycle and take care of our dishes at lunch. Students are asked to clear their own dishes, scrape, compost, sort trash and load the dishwasher. These are all skills that they will hopefully carry over at home. Feel free to ask them to do these things at home and let them help with recycling and composting. At our assembly we will focus on the 3 R's and what we can do to reduce how much waste we create. We want students to see what they can actually do to help in real time. I am hoping to inspire them to one day be the generation to address our problems with recycling and overuse of plastics.

Today, we are kicking off our second annual Bottle and Can drive. We are doing it differently than last year and using the Bottledrop Give program to make it easier for our gardening students to process. **Each student will be sent home with a BLUE BOTTLE DROP BAG. Each bag has a sticker with a Park Academy barcode. We are asking each family to fill a bag before March 20th and drop it off at any Bottledrop location, Fred Meyers or Safeway. If you would like to bring it to school and we will take it to Bottledrop for you. We will have kids outside at drop off collecting full bags the week of March 16-20th.** High School families will also be asked to participate and can get a blue bag from the basket in the front office. We will be having a separate assembly for the HS students that is more geared to their level. At that time, I will give each HS student a blue bag.

Our goal this year is to collect more than we did last year. 700\$ or 7,000 cans is our goal! I will put a meter up at the front of the school to chart our progress. If we meet our goal, we will have a school wide reward. Thank you for your support in recycling and helping to show kids that we can make a difference if we change our habits. Extra Blue bags will be in the front office, so if you would like to fill more than one or give one to your other friends or family to fill, then that would be great! *Please drop off all blue bags back to school by March 20th.*

Thank you for your support,

Mrs. Fields
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