



Panasonic Student
Eco Citizenship Project

Dr. Michael Conti School PS #5

Jersey City, New Jersey

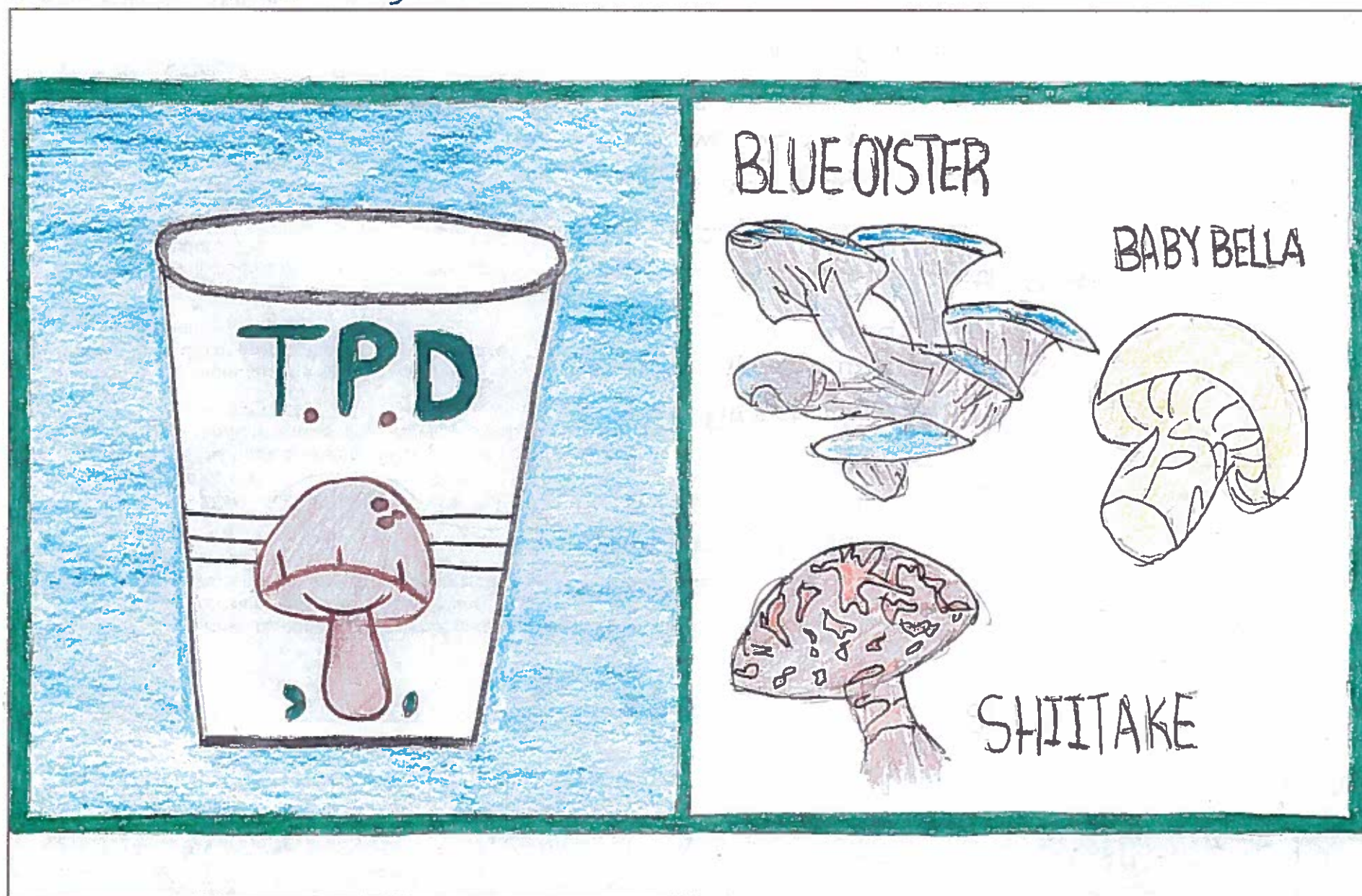
2016

1st Place Winner

Panasonic

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on LITERACY and LEARNING

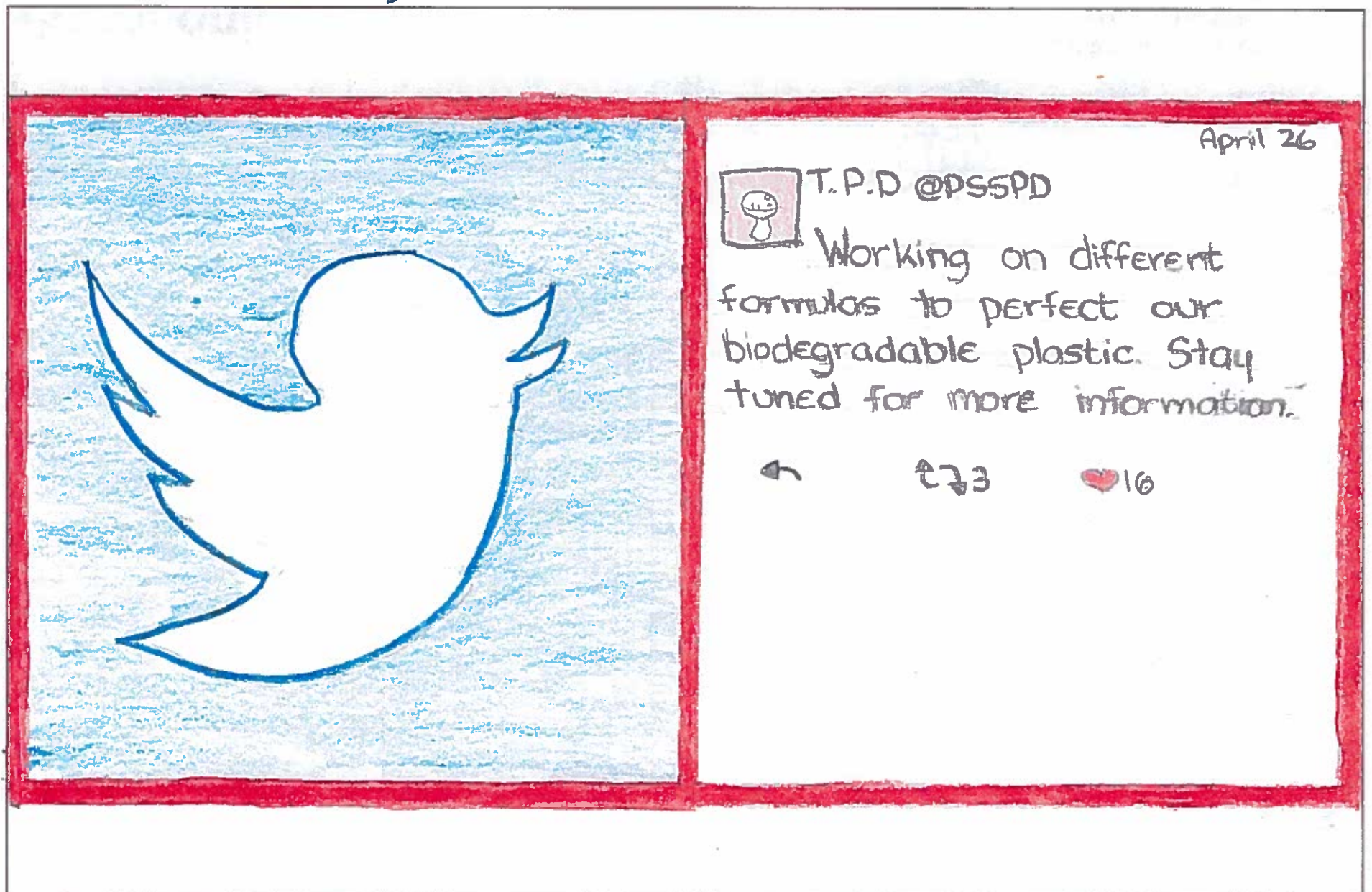




ACTION TAKEN:

There is a major dilemma in our school. The plastic cups are constantly being used and are not recycled in any way. This predicament led to the formation of The Plastic DisintGreators. We soon learned that plastic takes decades to decompose. Due to research we soon came to the decision that mushrooms would be the best way to decompose plastic and benefit the environment. We purchased three different mushroom kits (Shiitake, Baby Bella, and Blue Oyster) and placed three equally cut pieces of plastic into each one. We monitored the mushrooms and collected data to see if the plastic shrank in size. Our experiment was a success and we were now one step closer to solving our school dilemma.

Student Names: Viviana Abdelmessih, Matthew Daniels, Arianna Mejias,Teacher Name: Mr. Padilla



ACTION TAKEN: _____

To raise more awareness and to get our project noticed, we created a twitter account in which we would post several actions that we have created. We contacted experts in different fields related to our project. We wanted to provide people with an easier way to contact us and see our recent updates and social media was the perfect way to do this.

@PS5PD

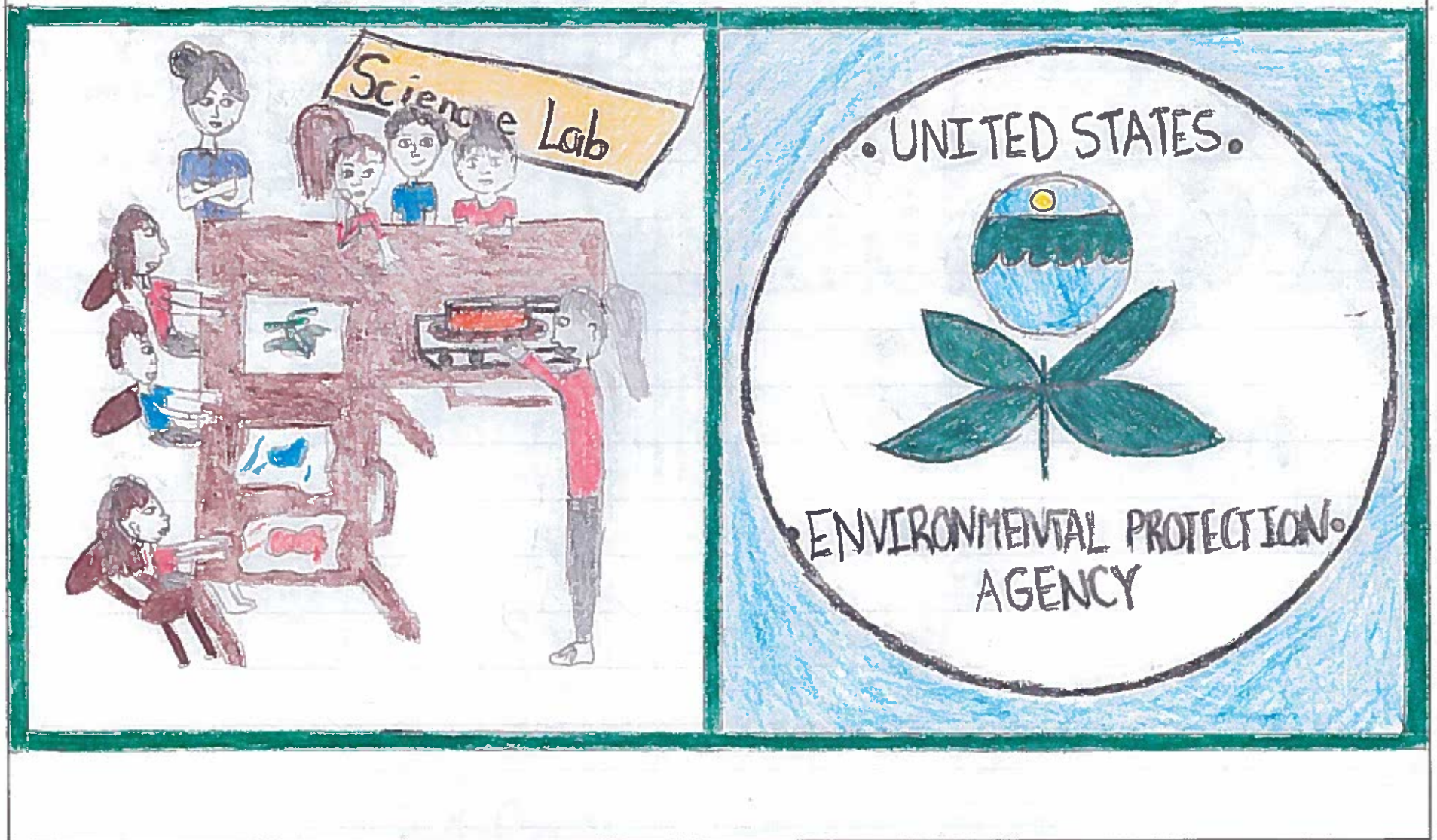
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ACTION TAKEN: _____

The gallery walk was hosted by the national junior honor society students. To receive publicity we made a display explaining our mushroom project and got the word out about what we were trying to accomplish. We showed the gallery walk guests our batches of plastic and the mushrooms kits. Many of the guests who arrived voted for our project on twitter and shared our idea of decomposing plastic with others.

Student Names: Viviana Abdelmessih, Mathew Daniels, Arianna Mejias,Teacher Name: Mr. Padilla**Panasonic**FOUNDATION for IMPACT
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**ACTION TAKEN:**

Several weeks ago children from Hudson Montessori School came on a class trip to PS#5 to learn more about our STEM projects. We invited them into our science lab and explained the project we were previously working on. The children were fascinated with our mushroom concept and were more intrigued with our idea of making biodegradable plastic. We had the kids make their own plastic and they were allowed to take the samples home along with a recipe on how to make it. The trip helped us to gain more followers and publicity.

A couple days ago we presented our project to the Commissioner of environmental protection Bob Martin. Bob Martin expressed large amounts of interest in our idea of solving a problem that was not only occurring in our community but worldwide. Not only did we share our project to Commissioner Martin but also Mayor Steven Fulop; Mayor of Jersey City.

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Teacher Name: Mr. Padilla

Do IT YOURSELF PLASTIC



$\frac{1}{4}$ cup



$\frac{1}{4}$ cup



$\frac{1}{4}$ cup



$\frac{1}{4}$ cup

ACTION TAKEN:

We, The Plastic DisinteGreators decided to make our own plastic, not the type that takes decades to decompose but biodegradable plastic. This plastic is capable of being decomposed by bacteria or other living organisms. To make our own biodegradable plastic we used: $\frac{1}{4}$ cup of vinegar, $\frac{1}{4}$ cup of cornstarch, $\frac{1}{4}$ cup of water, and $\frac{1}{4}$ cup of glycerin.

We've tried several recipes and the one that we stated above is what worked best. To make sure that the plastic is biodegradable, we tested them in water and compost. Over time we collected data and observed that it decomposes.

We are now continuing our project and trying to find a perfect recipe of biodegradable plastic to create our own cups to provide to PS#5.

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Teacher Name: Mr. Padilla