



Panasonic Student
Eco Citizenship Project

Thomas Edison EnergySmart Charter School

Somerset, New Jersey

2017
2nd Place Winner

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on LITERACY *and* LEARNING





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ACTION TAKEN: Did you know, that indoor air pollution is affecting our environment alongside outdoor air pollution? Indoor air pollutants mainly consist of VOCs like formaldehyde, benzene, ammonia, etc. and are emitted by synthetic upholsteries, cleaning supplies, and etc. As per NASA's clean air study, certain plants have the ability to naturally reduce VOCs and purify the air. In order to raise more awareness and contribute on our own behalf, we had recently raised funds and donated indoor plants to our school. We came up with several fundraising ideas. Of them our successful and fun-filled "Citrus Stand" hosted at our local community park was our favorite fundraising event. Also, one of our teammates donated cash gifts from her recent birthday party, and we raised enough money to donate & buy some plants for our school.

Student Names: Udgita, Ananya, Sriya, and Anika

Teacher Name: Mr. Varamis

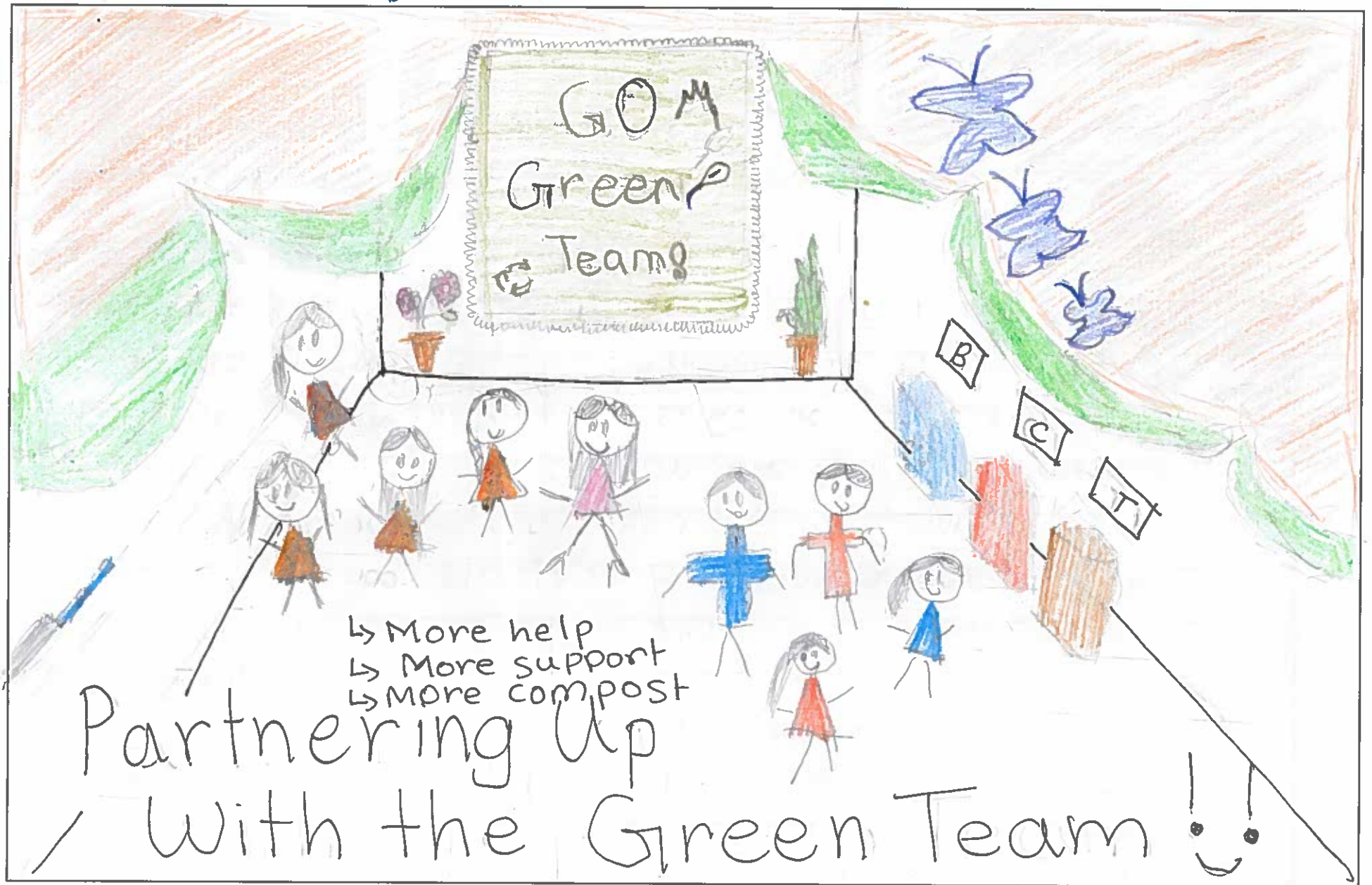


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ACTION TAKEN: So it's shopping time! It was fun to look at all those cool indoor plants, and it was hard to decide which ones to buy. We finally agreed to buy a couple of "Peace Lily" plants, a couple of "Areca Palms" plants, "Boston Fern" plants, and a few other decorative indoor plants. We donated these lovely plants to our school, and teamed up with the school staff and teachers to place the plants in the most suitable places for plant growth, and also by taking aesthetics into account. We have all collaborated in this highly fulfilling activity to create a lasting impact that has "GREEN" written all over it!

Student Names: Ananya, Anika, Sriya, and Udgita

Teacher Name: Mr. Yaramis



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ACTION TAKEN: The GREEN TEAM in our school is an educational program that helps the environment through waste reduction, recycling, composting, and pollution prevention. The Green Team's mission statement is "We consider the environment to include every social, natural, and cultural surrounding that impacts the health of our minds, bodies and spirits." We "teamed up" with the green team in our school. We used their compost with all of our school plant waste and used it as fertilizer for our plants in our school. Compost is a natural fertilizer that is made out of decayed organic material. It could be made with meat, vegetables and fruits, or manure. Compost is rich in nutrients and it promotes soil microbes that aid plant growth. In our cafeteria, we have several bins separated for recycling, compost and trash. Every day we are using the compost and we provide it to the plants.

Student Names: Sriya, Udgita, Anika, Ananya

Teacher Name: Mr. Varma



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ACTION TAKEN: More than 95% of the kids in our school have water bottles. Some have plastic, recyclable water bottles while others have metal or plastic reusable water bottles. Many of these kids only drink half of their water and waste the rest. Some others drink all the water in their bottle, refill it, and only drink a little bit. The rest of the water is wasted. All this wasted water can be used for other things, such as watering the plants or filtering the water. However, all this water is wasted and poured down the drain. Our idea is to put a large container at the front of our school. Right before kids leave, they can pour their extra water into the container. We will also put a recycling bin in front of the container so people can just dump & go. All the water in the tank could be stored to later water plants. The water could also be filtered to make drinking water.

Student Names: Anika, Ananya, Udgita, & Sriya

Teacher Name: Mr. Yaramis



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ACTION TAKEN: Indoor plants not only enhances your room decor, but also has some very important benefits. It helps in air purification. Fresh air in the room creates a peaceful environment. Indoor plants provide a calm atmosphere thereby reducing noise pollution. It also helps in increasing your productivity to work more at home or at work. Indoor plants helps in speed recovery. Hence, next time you visit a patient in a hospital, gift them an indoor plant! These are some reason hopefully people will understand about indoor plants. By raising awareness, we had a blog where each day we posted 1 reason about how indoor plants benefit us. The four of us will continue raising awareness amongst our fellow students, teachers, and principal. As our first initiative, we handed over a few indoor plants to our principal and school staff. They truly appreciated our efforts and encouraged us to keep doing the good work!

Student Names: Sriya, Anika, Ananya, Udita

Teacher Name: Mr. VARANISI

* Please visit our Blog:

teamecopals.wordpress.com

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Panasonic Eco Picture Diary Reflection

1 What is the most important thing you learned in this project?

The most important thing we learned is to give equal importance to the indoor environment as we do for the outdoors.

2 What do you wish you had spent more time on or done differently?

With more time we would have liked to reach out to more people such as senior centers, libraries, etc. to spread awareness.

3 What part of the project did you do your best work on?

We feel we did our best work on getting to know the different properties of the indoor plants.

4 What did you enjoy most about this project?

In this project we most enjoyed fundraising while spreading awareness to the public.

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