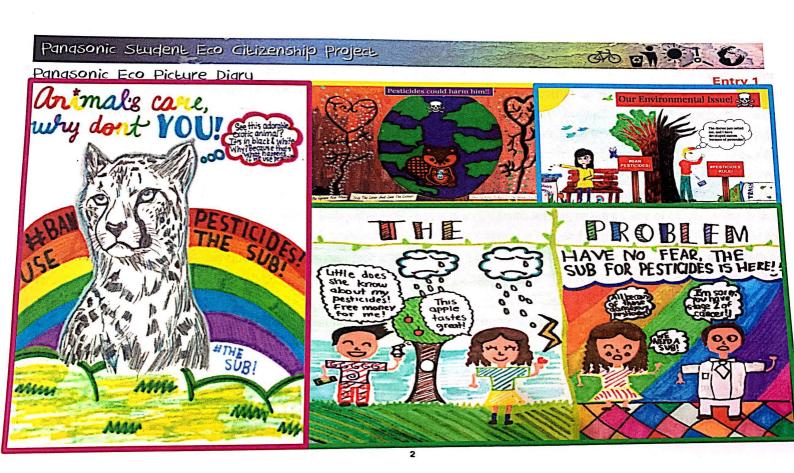
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Panasonic Student Eco Citizenship Project

ECO PICTURE DIARY

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The Panasonic Student Eco Citizenship Project has challenged us to brainstorm a concept which can be used to make our community sustainable in major ways. The key issue in our environment we are attempting to solve is to design a substitute for pesticides. Pesticides—the road to the demise of our beautiful environment. As the key to destruction, pesticides are harmful chemicals for living organisms, including us! Pesticides are typically used by farmers to remove pests from fruits and vegetables because they wish to keep their crops protected. What they aren't looking at, is that the pesticides can also harm us in ways we don't know. The fruits contaminated with pesticides release hazardous chemicals when we eat them. Under the circumstances, it causes us to receive diseases. Some include asthma, autism, learning disabilities, Parkinson's and Alzheimer's disease, cancer, and more. Pesticides also serve as a toxic to our environment's soil, water, turf, weeds, and vegetation. In fact, we sometimes swim in or drink that contaminated water. According to our research, the pesticides we all use today also contain toxins and poisons leading to the decline of animals living in large bodies of aquatic life and land animals. Even though they are not the target, animals are exposed to these chemicals. Believe it or not, animals placed on the list of vulnerable species are impacted such as hawks and mountain lions. Unquestionably, pesticides affect our community in a negative way. Our illustration and original piece of artwork shown in the previous slide genuinely demonstrates to you the need for an alternative in contrast to pesticides. To address this situation, our group desires to develop an organic, healthy spray playing as a substitute for pesticides, as well as educating the community about the adversities pesticides offer us.

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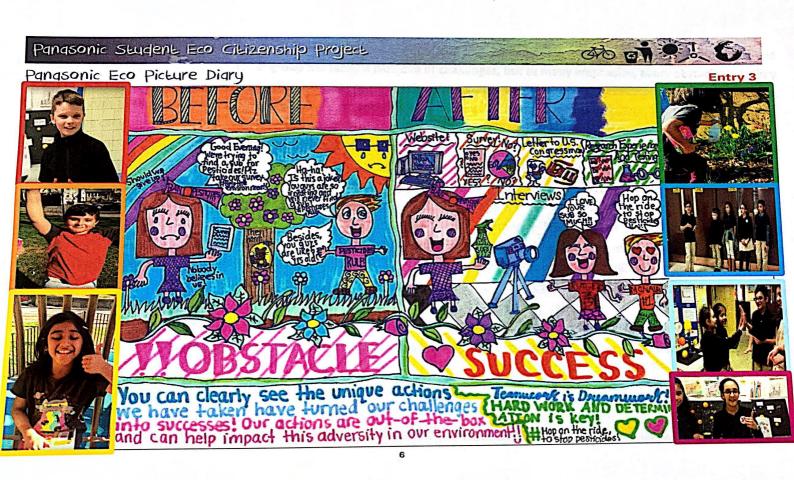
Without any second thoughts, you can clearly see the impact of our amazing actions up above, along with our actions. For instance, us educating the residents of Jersey City has led to many young children being excited about our mission serving as an impact, as you can see below. Doesn't it soothe your heart to see those intrigued faces high-fiving us?

To address this situation, our group has taken many courses of actions. Our main and most important action is creating a substitute for pesticides using natural substances. Our team's solution is to design a unique, organic essence spray consisting of flower scents of mint and eucalyptus. These specific flower scents were chosen for this experiment because they disturb bugs and mosquitoes. Our next solution to this problem was to interview and survey the residents of Jersey City. We interviewed 3rd and 4th graders from our school, as well as interviewing some 9th graders from McNair Academic High School. This solution let us inform and educate residents of the danger of using pesticides. Along with this benefit, it got the community engaged in our project and to support our cause to ban pesticides. The next solution we devised was to make a YouTube channel along with making our own website, regarding regular pesticides versus our organic substitute. The website is shared with the whole Jersey City Public School District. Visit, thesubforpesticides-com, to see more about our creativity and innovation, and videos of us experimenting with our project. Traveling to Leonard Gordon Park to see those excited faces learn about our mission soothed our hearts. Subsequently, our next action was that we wrote a letter to our local U.S. congressman regarding the dangers of pesticides, and plummeting the use of pesticides on crops or on plants which grow food. The letter mainly emphasizes on us attempting to propose a bill about limiting the use of pesticides, which could someday become a law. Pesticides are a devastating problem in our world, and we are reaching out to a numerous amount of people who wish to be a part of this change. Our school guidance counselor, Ms. Medina, has taught us about harmful GMOs and how they can produce pesticides into foods we all eat today. Last but certainly not least, we have reached out to a medical student from Rutgers University, and are currently researching with environmental scientists at the Ivy League university, Cornell. The actions we have taken genuinely demonstrate to you our hunger and passion to help the environment in a productive way. Pesticides are an enormous problem in our world, and we are willing to take the next step to stop pesticides from becoming a future for gardeners and farmers.

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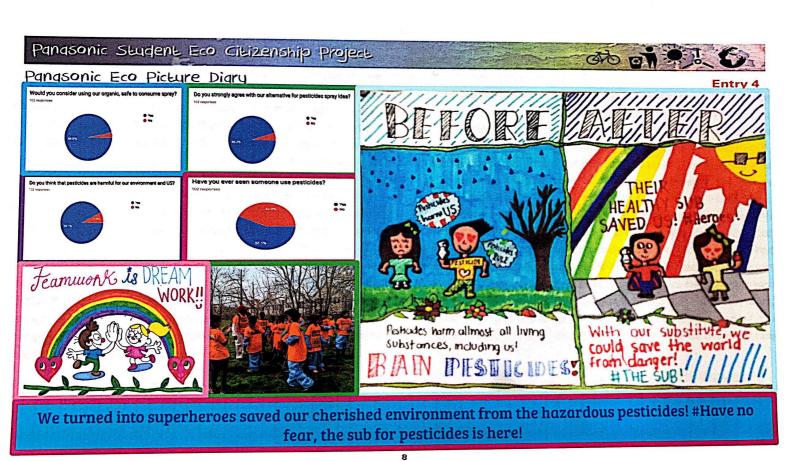


It is with great pleasure our group can say we have responsibly achieved our dream to help aid the environment in a positive and beneficial way. Throughout this process, our group has faced a plethora of challenges, but as many emphasize, every obstacle is the key to success. The first challenge we faced was when we went to survey the lower grades in our school. They selected random and ignorant answers in a rush to complete their classwork, without even knowing about our cause. It tore our heart in pieces, but that didn't stop us. As a result, we came up with the idea of making exciting YouTube videos, offering prizes to the children, and talked to them in a funny, yet serious way about our cause. This was unquestionably a HUGE success we faced. Another challenge we faced, was that another group did the exact action we planned to do, which was to email our local U.S. congressmen. That didn't stop us though, as we brainstormed even more to create actions outside-of-the-box. This led to us having possibly some of the most innovative actions in the classroom, serving as a success we faced. Finally, the last obstacle we faced, was that when we surveyed adults in our community. Some considered us as a joke because apparently there was "no way" we can make a change this drastic in our community. It was amazing to realize how lightly adults take environmental issues this big. Underestimating us was definitely a wrong mistake. Now, let's move on to the successes of this project. We faced a definite success when the Cornell University School of Environmental Sciences were intrigued by our substitute and gave us some helpful research. We were proud to realize they didn't underestimate us. Lastly, the most important success we faced in this mission was that our substitute for pesticides was proved to be correct. This entry genuinely demonstrates to you that no matter what obstacle we were facing, we brushed off our tears and got back on track. We looked each obstacle in the eye. We were determined to achieve our goal, and now the fifth graders who were underestimated are causing a drastic change in our environment.

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Collaboration and hard work throughout our team helped us achieve our goals to sustain our environment and bring back astonishing results. The results of our actions showed that many individuals desired to work with us to aid the environment. We made a significant community impact when we interviewed and surveyed the residents of Jersey City. In total, we received more than 100 responses. After interacting with others, we got accurate results from younger students, who clearly wanted to participate in benefiting the environment in a positive way. Our next action, which was creating a YouTube channel, we received many views and positive comments regarding our cause. We had used various techniques for explaining our cause in an interactive way. Along with devising a YouTube channel, we have also made a website named thesubforpesticides.com, showcasing our creativity and innovation. Due to the support from the staff and students in the Jersey City district, we are delighted to say that we have achieved this goal and got amazing results from it. In fact, we even got supportive comments from students at McNair Academic High School. Apart from getting our community engaged, we reached out to numerous individuals who were glad to participate in our journey to cause a change. The research that was conducted with Cornell University and Rutgers University students was unquestionably a success. They seemed intrigued by how fifth graders were able to create ways to benefit the environment. Subsequently, our guidance counselor, Mrs. Medina had shared some information about harmful GMOs and different scents that repel pests. This information came in use. Lastly, our result for our pesticide substitute was an absolute marvel, since it performed its task of controlling pests, and intended no harm to any living organisms. After testing our substitute at Leonard Gordon Park, we had realized normal pesticides and our organic substitute had many substantial differences. Our pesticide was safe around children and didn't seem to make us dizzy as normals pesticides would. The teamwork that was needed to accomplish our goals was something we are proud of, serving as the most valuable lesson we learned from this project. We met up at Leonard Gordon Park to achieve our goal. We didn't care about ourselves, but only the environment. The Panasonic Eco Citizenship Project is all about teamwork, and we display a clear representation of that. It has been quite a while, and now it is time for us to conclude our points. To us, winning is not important, the change we can offer to the environment is. At the end of the day, we come to realize that we didn't do all this to win. The only thing we genuinely care about is helping our environment grow greener than ever.

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Panasonic Eco Picture Diary Reflection

- What is the most important thing you learned in this project?
 - Honestly, the most important thing we learned in this project is that teamwork truly makes the dreamwork. We worked extremely arduous day and night, and successfully accomplished our goal! This project was all about teamwork, and our group displays a clear representation of that. Along with this, another important factor we learned was that we might be small, but our voice are powerful enough to save our environment from any harm.
- What do you wish you had spent more time on or done differently?

 From our perspectives, we truly did our best in every part of this project, but we believe that if we were to do this project again we would want to spend more time on our drawings, as even though they were stunning, they needed a little touches to them.
- What part of the project did you do your best work on?
 - That's a very strenuous decision to make, as our group poured their hearts and souls into assisting the environment in a sustainable way in every activity we participated in. We did our best in every single part, as we are so passionate and hungry to bring back the once beautiful, green environment we lived in.
- What did you enjoy most about this project?
 In our opinion, the part of this project we enjoyed the most was when we researched with environmental scientists at Cornell University. All in all, we were extremely proud and ecstatic to realize we had caused a drastic and positive change in the environment of Jersey City, as well as educating citizens about the damage pesticides offer us.

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