

Ontario EcoSchools 2013-2014

What is the Ontario EcoSchools Program?

Beginning in September of 2013, all schools within the Catholic District School Board of Eastern Ontario have registered for certification in the Ontario EcoSchools Program. EcoSchools certification provides a rigorous province-wide set of criteria to assess achievement of environmentally responsible actions and environmental learning. Engagement in this program reflects a commitment to the environment.

The 2013-2014 Ontario EcoSchools program outlines environmental learning opportunities and actions that can be taken by schools to develop ecological literacy and environmental practices, thereby encouraging students to become environmentally responsible citizens and reducing the environmental footprint of schools.

The program has 6 sections:

- 1) Teamwork and Leadership
- 2) Energy Conservation
- 3) Waste Minimization
- 4) School Ground Greening
- 5) Curriculum
- 6) Environmental Stewardship

Schools must meet specific goals in each section in order to attain certification.

Meet the St. Jude EcoSchool Team:

Ms. Judith Boucher, Principal

Ms. Kim Carr, Teacher

Mr. Ron Carriere, Custodian

Ms. Jane McGurk, Catholic School Council Representative

Mrs. Lorraine Boyer, Parent

Mrs. Tiffany Howes, Parent

Ms. Genevieve Paquette, Parent

Students

What activities have we been participating in so far this year:

-E-Waste Collection January 6-12, 2014

-School-wide assembly given by Recycle Action, to inform students about what items can and cannot be recycled, and examples of products recycled materials can be made into.

-Audit of Energy Conservation – turning lights and computers off when not in use

- Audit of Waste Minimization – efforts to implement the 3 R's – reduce, re-use and recycle.
- Waste-Free Lunch Wednesdays began in January
- Boxes in classrooms to collect paper (so that both sides of a page can be used)
- Students on the EcoTeam have been assisting our primary students in recycling

How Can You Help?

Reference Materials available on our site:

- Chart for accepted materials in recycling bins (Champlain Township, East Hawkesbury, The Corporation of the Town of Hawkesbury)
- Recycle Action (Hawkesbury) "Products We Recycle" fact sheet
- Waste Reduction and Recycling Facts – Facts on Waste and Recycling

We are always looking for volunteers to assist us. If interested, please contact Ms. Carr or Ms. Boucher at 613-678-5455.