

Why Boomerang Lunches?

Many schools across Ontario are moving toward Boomerang Lunches as a way to make a difference for our environment. The purpose of a Boomerang Lunch is not to transfer trash disposal responsibilities from the school to home. An important objective of the program is to encourage parents and students to review and think about the way they prepare and package lunch foods. Most lunch trash comes from disposable packaging of single-use food items. Food is also often packed in single-use plastic bags, aluminum foil or wax paper. Admittedly, these products are extremely convenient, but ...

what is the environmental cost?

Waste Related Quick Facts

- Recycling all of your home's waste newsprint, cardboard, glass and metal can reduce carbon dioxide emissions by about 400 kgs a year. (*Earth Care*)
- 5 billion drink boxes are thrown away each year in North America.
- North America has 8% of the world's population, consumes 1/3 of the world's resources and produces almost half of the world's non-organic garbage.
- 70% of landfilled waste could be either reused or recycled.
- In North America, approximately 20% of our paper, plastic, glass and metal goods are currently made from recycled material. Experts believe that 50% could be easily achieved.
- By the age of 6 months, the average Canadian has consumed the same amount of resources as the average person in the developing world consumes in a lifetime. (*Recycling Council of Ontario*)
- In a lifetime, the average North American will throw away 600 times his or her adult weight in garbage. A 68 kg adult will leave a legacy of 40,825 kg of trash. (*Natural Resources Canada*)
- The presence of humans in a variety of ecosystems is normal and expected. We, like plants and animals, need food, water and shelter. Our goal should be to do this in a way that ensures our habitats are maintained for future generations. (*Parks Canada*)
- While packaging is sometimes necessary for health and shelf life reasons, one look at store shelves will alert you to the trend for increasingly excessive packaging. By taking a few extra moments to consider alternatives at the grocery store before you buy, you can save money and reduce trash. (*Government of Canada*)
- Plastic products contribute 7% by weight and 30% by volume to municipal solid waste. (*Recycling Council of Ontario*)
- 10 plastic soft drink bottles are required to make the fiberfill for one ski jacket. (*Greater Vancouver Regional District: Just the Facts*)

More!

Waste related Quick Facts

- Presently, 80% of municipal and industrial solid waste in Canada is disposed of by landfilling processes, with the remainder disposed through recycling, resource recovery and incineration. (*Government of Canada*)
- Recycling one tonne of newspaper saves 19 trees, 3 cubic metres of landfill space, 4,000 kilowatt hours of energy, 29,000 litres of water and 30 kgs of air pollution. (*Recycling Council of Ontario*)
- Recycling aluminum (the highest theoretical potential for saving energy) saves 95%.
- Recycling glass -- energy savings of 33%
- Recycling paper -- energy savings of 64%
- Energy savings per tonne of finished plastic bottles is enough to fill a 20-gallon gas tank every week for ten years.
- By recycling one tonne of paper you save:
 - 17 trees
 - 6953 gallons of water
 - 463 gallons of oil
 - 583 pounds of air pollution
- It takes 95% less energy to produce new aluminum from discarded aluminum pop cans than from raw materials.
- Recycling one aluminum can saves the amount of energy to light one 100 watt bulb for 20 hours or run a TV for 3 hours.
- Canadians produce approximately 7 million tonnes of organic waste each year.
- 2/3 of our household waste can be composted.

It has been estimated that on average a school age child using a disposable lunch generates 67 pounds of waste per school year. At Greenville School, with approximately 200 students eating at school each day, that equates to over 13 000 pounds of waste per year! I strongly believe that we need to educate and support our children so that they can be more aware of how things like disposable lunches impact the environment. It is my hope that families will have discussions at home about the waste that is generated, and also take actions on how to do our part to help reduce the amount of garbage that is thrown into our local landfills.





A Boomerang Lunch helps to reduce the number of containers that are thrown away. A Boomerang lunch also provides parents with first hand knowledge of the eating habits and preferences of their children. All leftovers are carried home at the end of the day so that parents can see what's been eaten or not! We know that this is asking families to re-think lunch preparations and student actions. We recommend the use of a ziplock baggie to help transport waste back home with minimal mess. Students are encouraged to put his / her garbage into the bag so that it may be emptied into the compost or family recycling bin. Then it may be rinsed out so that it can be reused another day.

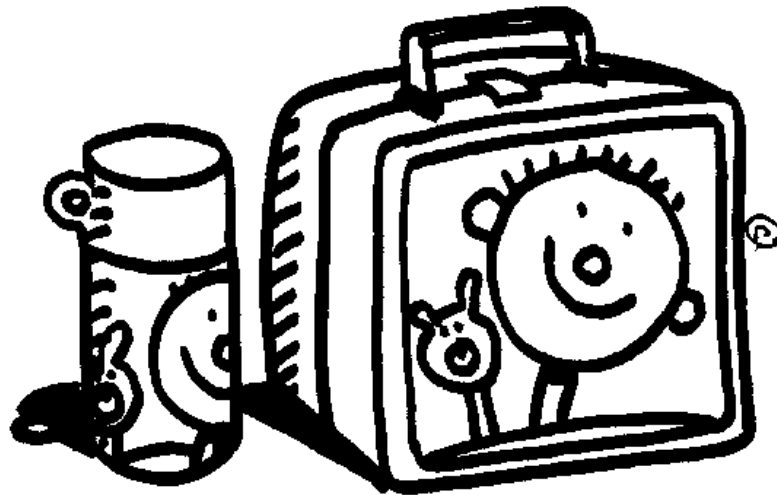
Waste-free/Boomerang Lunch

Guidelines

Here are some things to look for in an environmentally-friendly lunch:

- ➔ A reusable lunch bag or box (not a throw-away, single-use plastic or paper bag).
- ➔ Reusable containers for packing food (no plastic wrap, foil, plastic bags, single-serving containers, pre-packaged foods). Hard plastic food containers or re-use of plastic tubs are suitable options.
- ➔ Reusable drink containers e.g. thermos, or reusable bottle (single-use pop cans, water bottles, juice boxes). Recyclable containers (pop cans) are discouraged but acceptable as long as the student ensures they go into the recycling bin.
- ➔ Organic waste like apple cores, orange and banana peels, other leftovers etc. that can either be composted through a school composting program or at home.
- ➔ Non-disposable cutlery (silverware) and a cloth napkin.

Greensville School can continue to set a positive example to our families and our community by supporting and promoting Boomerang Lunches.



Greenville School thanks you
and
the Earth thanks you!

