

## December's Green Team Report

In an effort to help Maplewood meet the **PPS Electricity Conservation Initiative Program Goal**, which will help 'green' Maplewood and earn the school up to \$2000.00, Green Team parents **Joanne Hogarth, Ronda Zakocs, Nicole Garcelon-Hillis** and **Deborah Fleskes** have put up conservation signs in classrooms and around the building. We would like to thank the following teachers for giving us the opportunity to meet with their students: **Beth Hawes, Mag Savage, Kim Able, Cass Lang, Marianne McClenaghan, Renay Schaeffer, Linda McIntyre, Karen Scherlie, Liberty Looney, and Terri Harrington**. If any other teachers would like Green Team Parents to put up conservation signs in their classrooms, with student involvement or outside of class time, they can reach Deborah at [deborah.fleskes@gmail.com](mailto:deborah.fleskes@gmail.com).

DEQ's **No-Idling signs** have been put up in front of the school. (Thank you **Ronda Zakocs** and **Dan Brown!**) The signs read

**"Idle Free Zone. Turn Engine Off. Young Lungs at Work."**

According to DEQ, idling your vehicle no longer than 30 seconds will drastically improve the air our children breathe as well as improving the air quality of our neighborhood. **Please remember to turn off your engines at pick-up.**

In a joint effort with other neighborhood schools, the Green Team is organizing a **Block Styrofoam Drive** for Saturday, January 8<sup>th</sup>, although Styrofoam can be dropped off at the school anytime the week prior. Because we have to pay Recology to take the materials, a donation will be requested with each carload. Details, including the location, will be published in the E-Blasts.

At the last PTA Meeting parents were concerned that we were running low on silverware. **Deborah Fleskes** checked with **Marci Jenkins** and she currently does have enough forks and spoons, sometimes they just need to be restocked during lunch. The Green Team plans to do another **silverware drive** in the spring to ensure ample stock.

At the last PTA Meeting parents also expressed interest in **recycling milk cartons**. The logistics are extremely labor intensive. However, the Green Team is exploring the possibility of a pilot milk carton recycling program one day a week. It would require Maplewood parent volunteers. Please let us know if you are interested.

The Green Team is working on setting up a **Green Literacy pilot** project in conjunction with the Art Literacy program. Please let us know if you are interested in being involved.

The Green Team supports the **Communication Committee's** efforts to reduce the amount of paper going home in backpacks.

The Green Team is working with the **Run for Maplewood** Chair **Suzanne Jones** on ways to further green the event. We are looking at the possibility of getting compostable cups donated or asking students to bring water bottles. Ideas implemented here could also be used for Field Day.

The Green Team would like to thank **Renay Schaeffer** for agreeing to act as the **Teacher Liaison** to our committee.