



# Simply Green Newsletter



## Camden Elementary Receives Recycling Bins Through Preble County Solid Waste District's Business Recycling Grant...

The Preble County Solid Waste District is proud to announce that Camden Elementary was awarded a business recycling grant in the amount of \$500.00 to purchase two recycling carts and a recycling container for the teachers' lounge. We are excited that students are learning all about the benefits of recycling at school!

Mark Roberts, second grade teacher at Camden Elementary, applied for the grant in late 2017. He wanted to make recycling easier for his students who do the collection. Mr. Roberts is a believer in recycling and now his students see firsthand how their recycling efforts make the school better. As part of the celebration that Camden Elementary received the grant, not only did the school get new recycling equipment, but a classroom presentation about recycling and waste reduction strategies was given to the students and free recycling t-shirts and recycling promotional backpacks and toys were distributed so that students

could inspire everyone in the school to recycle responsibly. Students learned that unfortunately, not all waste can be recycled, and that in fact, some waste is just trash. The trick is to know the difference! Students are encouraged to look for the recycling symbol on waste before putting it in the bins. This is especially important with plastics, since Rumpke can only recycle plastics #1 and #2 such as water bottles, soda bottles, milk jugs, and other food grade plastics. One issue that the school is still working out is that even though milk cartons are made from paper which is one of the five accepted recyclable materials that can be put into school recycling containers (along with plastics #1 and #2, metals, paper, cardboard, and glass), milk cartons must not have any milk left in them to be recycled. Food residue can contaminate recyclables making the material unusable and fouls up the sorting machines at the recycling plant. The school is working on a solution to the problem where the milk may be drained

somehow before cartons can go in the bin.

When asked about why it is a good thing to recycle at school and at home, students were quick to reply (Rest of article on back) →



"Just about anything in your home (or office or school, etc.) that cannot be reused CAN be recycled into something else. You'd be amazed what can be done with a recycled product! A recycled soda bottle, can be made into T-shirts, combs, or hundreds of other plastic goods that can be used for many years."

(NIEHS Kids' Health Pages)

### Ways for Kids to Go "Waste Free"...

- Use a reusable lunch box instead of throw away bags or containers.
- Use a refillable drink container instead of throw away bottles.
- Take silverware that can be washed at home.
- Use your school's recycling bins whenever possible!

## Camden Elementary Receives Business Recycling Grant (Continued)

that recycling keeps trash from going to the landfill, keeps our land and water clean for people and animals, makes jobs for people, and recycling makes us feel good to do it! Students said that the carts they use now work really well for those doing the collecting.

Mr. Roberts said, "Before, when we didn't have the carts, students would have to drag the heavy bags

down the hallway, and sometimes they would break. Now it's so much easier!"

The two 95 gallon recycling carts and the recycling bin in the teachers' lounge are used once per week by the students to collect recyclables. The amount that is now being recycled at the school amounts to over 3.7 tons per year! This waste is not only being saved from ending up at the landfill but

also helps reduce the school's trash bills.

Congratulations to everyone at Camden Elementary for all your recycling efforts! If your school or business is interested in receiving a business recycling grant, check out [www.preblecountyrecycles.org](http://www.preblecountyrecycles.org) and click on the Business Recycling Grant tab for more information. Recycling benefits everyone!



## 2017 Preble County Solid Waste District's Recycled Sculpture Contest Winners



Students from Eaton High School, during their fall and winter art class, made artwork and 3-D sculptures from materials that can be recycled. Students used such items as empty paper towel rolls, milk jugs, aluminum cans, scrap paper, cardboard boxes, plastic bottles and other materials to create some unique and interesting pieces of art. The students' pieces were judged by the staff at the Preble County Solid Waste District and the winning students received awards and prizes for their achievements in the artistic use of recyclable items.

The purpose of the contest was to illustrate how everyday items that are sometimes thought of as just trash can be creatively repurposed and made into something else, often something beautiful such as artwork. The students worked very hard on their projects and took pride in their creations and the Solid Waste office would like to recognize all of their efforts.

The following students received awards: 1st place Individual- Kayleigh Michael, 2nd place Individual- Cameron Perry, 3rd place Individual- Mia Howell; 1st place Group- Bella Streets and Ainesleigh Elstro, 2nd place Group- Hannah Leeper and Veronica Sizemore, 3rd place Group- Ryan Gibson, Jacob Renner, David Driver.

Students' artwork from this contest will be on display in the YMCA lobby (Eaton) during the month of April. Congratulations to all the winners! Remember that recycling makes a difference in keeping our environment clean!