

WHS GREEN SCENE



**WHS is Honored to Join
Our Governor & First Lady
in Video for Climate Change!!!**

Click [here](#) to see
Earth Day
Videos from
each classroom



Stay Green
and Read
online!

***Whitehouse School Staff and Students
work collaboratively to promote
GREEN actions!***

From Your Principal...

Dear WHS Friends and Families:

Whitehouse School has been consistently honored at the state (Silver certification through the Sustainable Jersey Schools program) and national levels (U.S. Department of Education Green Ribbon School Award). These fine distinctions are largely due to the tireless efforts of Mrs. Wendy Reardon and Mrs. Juliane Lotierzo. Our school's focus on wellness and work with preserving our environment have been well-supported in our district, in addition to the greater school community.

- Last year, we reached the highest possible tier through the Raritan Headwaters Association as we became a *Watershed Level River-Friendly School*.
- We have also received the National Wildlife Federation Eco-Schools USA Silver Award.
- As we continue our green mission, we want to keep you informed as we share our programs and facility augmentations. We were awarded a \$5000 Investors Bank grant for enhancements to our courtyard in support of outdoor learning!
- We have received several small grants in the amount of \$2,000 each, sponsored through PSE&G and supported by Sustainable Jersey Schools and the New Jersey Education Association. The money was utilized to purchase water bottle refilling stations. Staff members and students have had cold, filtered water available AND are able to reduce waste by using less plastic disposable water bottles.
- We were also very grateful a few years ago when our local B.J.'s in Flemington provided us with funding through their Adopt-A-School Program. The money enabled us to purchase two weather stations for our school.
- We took a year off because of the pandemic, but next year, we will continue to work with our Rutgers Master Gardeners to enhance our composting program. In the past, we were able to buy two tumbling composters. Later, we began reaping new benefits as the Master Gardeners hand-built a three-compartment composter outside by repurposing wooden shipping pallets. The upgrades enable us to make the process more efficient and effective when all grade levels work to grow vegetables, fruits, and plants in our school garden. In addition, we have a rain barrel so we can utilize its collected water in our vegetable and flower gardens.
- Each morning, when our Head Custodian, Mr. Runyon, continues to raise the American flag, he also displays the appropriate outdoor air quality flag based on official updates posted on our website.

We are proud of our efforts at Whitehouse School. As we continue to seek ways to reduce our environmental impact, we do so with the determination to change behaviors that better serve and sustain our environment.

Thank you in advance for your support. If you have any ideas or would like to further contribute in any area, please let us know.

Warmly,

Dr. Ann T. DeRosa

The Word on the Street...



Township of
Readington
New Jersey

Readington has passed a ban on single-use plastics!

(Ordinance #22-2020, effective Jan 1st, 2021)



The ordinance bans:

- **Single-use plastic bags**
- **Polystyrene foam containers**
- **Plastic straws** (still available upon request)



Paper bags available at discretion of the business,
with or without a fee

Please bring your own reusable bag!



School-Wide STEM Project

Charlie and the Chocolate Factory STEM Project

Optional School-Wide Project

An English scientist named Professor Foulbody created a machine to determine whether a golden ticket exists within a bar of chocolate without unwrapping it...He failed miserably and he still wants a Golden Ticket.

Let's help Charlie keep his ticket safe by creating a trap to trick Professor Foulbody...

Use things around the house, such as: a shoe box, cereal box. You can even use a fake Golden Ticket to lure him to your trap.



Please send pictures of your traps to wreardon@readington.k12.nj.us by Wednesday March 24 to be included in a School-Wide Video

**CLICK ON THE GOLDEN TICKET BELOW FOR THE
FINISHED PRODUCTS...**



Earth Day Celebration



Earth Day is an annual event celebrated on April 22. Students in all grade levels celebrated Earth Day by creating various projects. You will find some of these projects showcased in this newsletter.





EARTH DAY

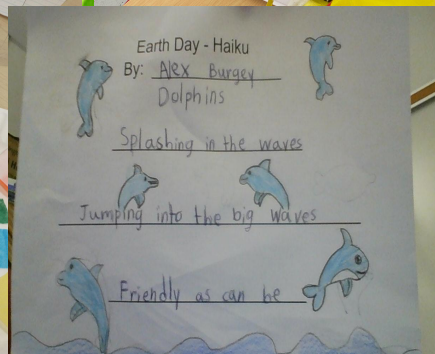
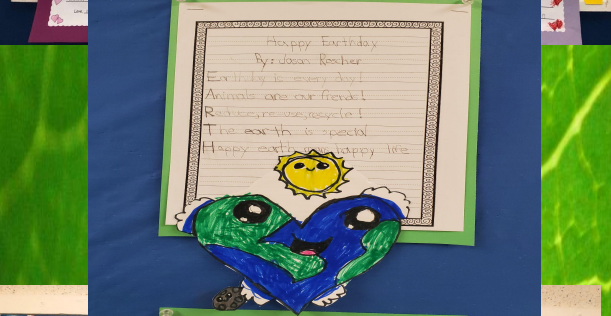
How do you help the Earth?

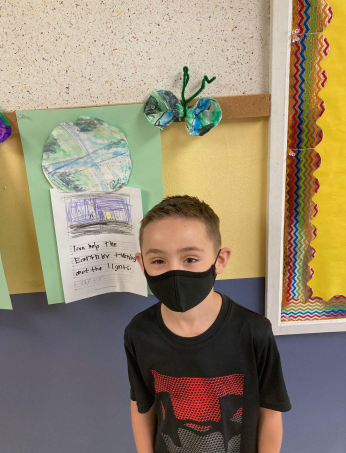
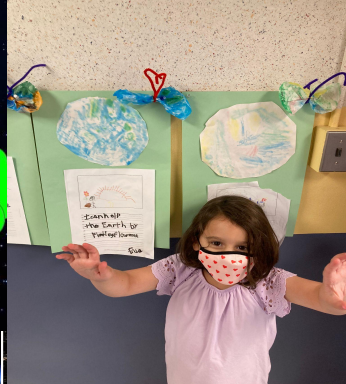
I help the Earth by recycling paper and plastics. We catch the rain to water mommy's flowers.

Name: Michael Primamore



Recycle Sort - Put the Recycle items in the Recycle Bin.





Arbor Day was celebrated on April 30th with a tree-planting ceremony. "In-person" & virtual students sang songs and recited poems. Each year, a tree is donated to WHS by the Hunterdon County Shade Tree Commission!

Kindergarten



First Grade [Video](#) and Photos



Second Grade



Third Grade



Kindergartners Use Recycled Yogurt Cups for Spring Seedlings.



Did you know that you could use recyclable materials to grow plants? *The Kindergartners at Whitehouse School utilized recycled yogurt cups to plant Zinnia seeds. Yogurt cups, paper coffee cups, styrofoam cups, plastic cups, and plastic glasses are just a few common household items that end up in the trash bin, which can be recycled into seed-starter containers.*

Kindergartners Grow Food from Scraps to Reduce Food Waste.

Day 1

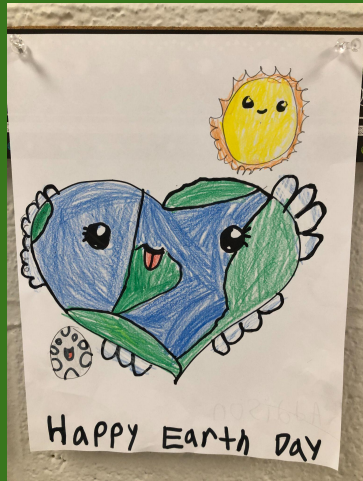


Day 15



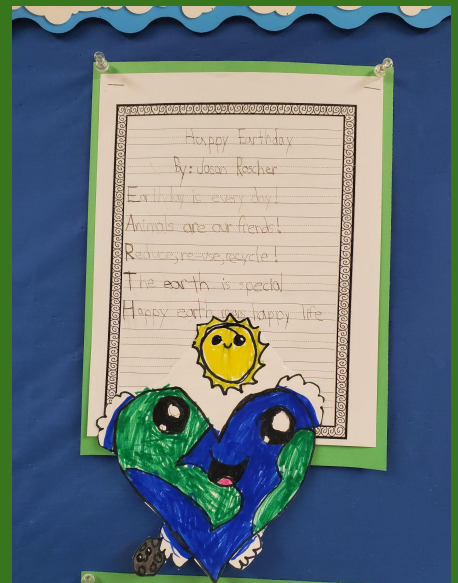
Students decided to try growing food from scraps to help reduce the amount of food waste that was generated at home. Classes observed and cared for these plants each day. The children were encourage to try it at home, too.

First Graders created Earth Day Art to celebrate Arbor Day with “in-person” and virtual students...

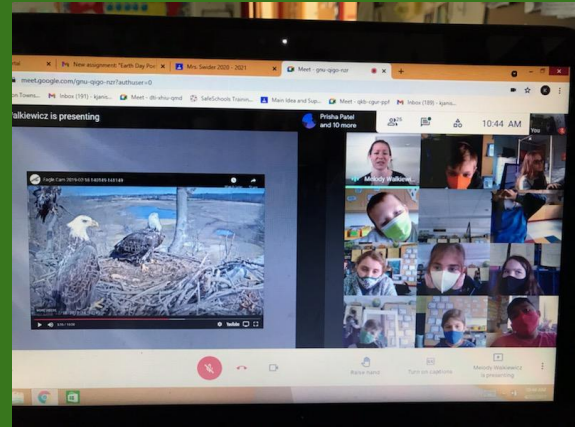


The First Grade Team had an additional tree donated by a former WHS student and owner of Hidden Hollow Acres of Whitehouse Station! Students used ArtHub to create an Earth Day drawing.

Second Graders created an "Ode to Mother Earth" and Earth Day poems...



Third Graders enjoyed a Virtual Visit with a Wildlife Conservationist.



Third Grade Classes invited a Wildlife Conservationist of NJ to present virtually to their classes. The presentation was about protecting our National Symbol, *The Bald Eagle*. Student interest was piqued after viewing the Eagle Cams at Duke Farms. Click [here](#) to view the Duke Farm Eagle Cams.

Third Graders also planted trees...



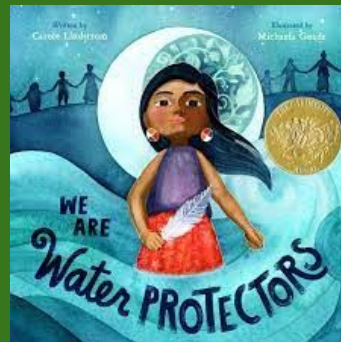
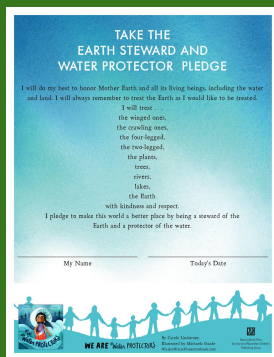
The tree saplings were donated to Whitehouse School by The Readington Township Open Space Advisory Board!

April Music Enrichment focused on Earth Day!



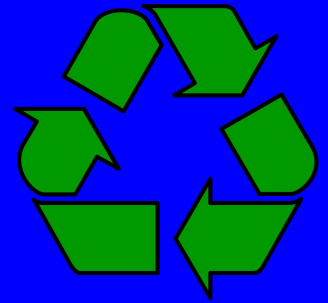
Students had the option to make instruments from recycled materials to create Earth Day Rhythm Compositions. Students were also introduced to the theatrical show “STOMP”, where the performers create music from everyday objects.

The 2021 Caldecott Book Winner teaches us about protecting the Earth.



The 2021 Caldecott winner was *We are Water Protectors* written by Carole Lindstrom and illustrated by Michaela Goade. Our Librarian, Mrs. Zanardi, read the book virtually to all students at Whitehouse School. Students had the opportunity to take the Earth Pledge. Click [here](#) to view the Earth Pledge.

WHS Bags-to-Benches



Whitehouse School's Bags to Benches



How Can You Help???

Send in your plastic from home. Students may bring it to school and place it in the dedicated recycling bin. Plastic must be clean and dry. Empty out any food or residue.

Grade 3 Student Voice is partnering with the Readington Township Environmental Commission. Our goal is to collect 500 lbs of plastic by August. If we do, WHS will earn a Trex bench for the Sensory Garden!

Help WHS save the Earth ... and earn a bench!

Challenge Accepted!



Grocery bags



Bread bags



Bubble wrap



Dry cleaning bags



Newspaper sleeves



Ice bags



Plastic shipping envelopes



Ziploc & other reclosable food storage bags



Cereal bags



Case overwrap



Salt bags



Pallet wrap & stretch film



Wood pellet bags



Produce bags

Any questions, please reach out to: lyukniewicz@readington.k12.nj.us or vzanardi@readington.k12.nj.us



**Whitehouse School
continues to be a
NJ school with
Silver Level Certification!**

In addition, our district won the Sustainability Leadership Award for all of our GREEN progress. WHS will continue to focus on wellness and efforts to preserve our environment.

Help us Earn Supplies and Money for our School!



**Through Terracycle Recycling Program,
we collect the following items:**

Personal Care and Beauty Waste

Hair Care Packaging: shampoo/conditioner bottles and hair gel tubes

Skin Care Packaging: lip balm tubes, face soap dispensers and tubes of face lotion bottles

Cosmetics Packaging: lipstick cases, lip gloss tubes, mascara tubes, eye shadow cases, bronzer cases, foundation packaging and bottles, powder cases, and eyeliner pencils

Water Bottle Filling Station

**WHS has water bottle filling stations
for students and staff!**



Did you know that every hour Americans throw away 2.5 million plastic bottles?

Using a reusable water bottle is an easy way to reduce waste in a landfill and help protect the environment. By continually producing more bottles, we utilize a tremendous amount of energy and resources. The benefits of a reusable water bottle are two-fold. First, we preserve the environment by creating less pollution. Second, we help humankind by reducing the toxins that are released during plastic production. This results in a cleaner, healthier world.

“No Idle Zone”

HELP US HELP THE ENVIRONMENT



Our district has adopted anti-idling Policy # 7471. It states that buses and motor vehicles are not permitted to have their engines on when they are stopped or parked.

The policy is meant to help reduce harmful emissions that pollute the air. (There are a few exceptions during extreme weather conditions.)

Thank you in advance for your cooperation as you assist us.

Outdoor Air Quality



How much pollution is in the air today? You can find out by simply looking at the flagpole. Our school has adopted the Air Quality Flag Program which means we will fly brightly colored flags to show how clean the air is each day. The flags correspond to the colors of the Air Quality Index (www.airnow.gov). The AQI is an index for reporting daily air quality. It tells you how clean or polluted your air is, and what associated health effects might be a concern for you.

The good news is the Air Quality Flag Program helps protect students' health. On green and yellow days we will encourage students to be outside and moving. When air quality is orange or red, it is still OK to play outside, but we will encourage kids to take some breaks and to do activities that might involve walking and jogging, instead of running and sprinting. If the flag is purple, we will play inside that day. The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency is promoting the Air Quality Flag Program with schools in many U.S. cities and we are proud to be involved. For more information on the Flag Program, go to www.airnow.gov/flag.