



Green Curriculum And Homework For Families

Environmental awareness is quickly becoming an important part of the curriculum. Environmental consciousness is linked to our Catholic social teachings and is taught at every grade level. In partnership with parents, we hope that this next generation will grow up to be stewards of God's creation and ambassadors for protecting our natural resources, conserving energy, cutting waste and putting an end to litter.

Here Are Some "Homework" Ideas For Your Family:

Why not:

- start a family garden in the backyard?
- buy a kit to recycle paper at home?
- unplug chargers when they are not being used?
- talk about pesticides and how they affect the way we prepare food?
- invest in energy-saving holiday lights?
- take family trips to visit Canada's natural resources?

Go Online To Learn More About Our Green Schools

Visit www.smcdsb.on.ca to learn more about how our schools are going green.

Sign up for our e-newsletter today
smcdsb.on.ca/newsletter.

Get updates on how we are developing environmental awareness at our schools and how families can continue these lessons at home.

Our students are the key to change - let's work with them to become stewards of this precious gift we've been given ... the earth.



For more information contact
(705) 722-3555 ext. 351
or visit www.smcdsb.on.ca

e-newsletter
smcdsb.on.ca/newsletter

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HOW OUR SCHOOLS ARE going green

www.smcdsb.on.ca



**Caring For
God's Creation**

"Start by doing what's necessary; then do what's possible;
and suddenly you are doing the impossible." *St. Francis of Assisi*



Our Schools Are Getting Greener

Our students and staff are taking environmental action to protect and preserve the environment and care for God's creation. Whether it is our Plant Department's dedication to reducing heat, hydro and water consumption or one of our schools achieving the EcoSchools certification, we are involved in a wide range of environmental initiatives.

Piloting Wind Energy



Our Board is approved for the province's Green School Pilot project. We will receive approximately \$400,000 to install five vertical wind turbines on some of our properties. Sign up for our green e-newsletter to find out all of the details as they are made available.

Embracing The EcoSchools Initiative

The Ontario EcoSchools initiative is an environmental education program designed by school boards across the province. It shows our students how they can reduce energy use and minimize waste at school and in their lives at home.

Many of our schools have received the EcoSchools certification and many more are getting greener by the day. Litterless lunches, tree planting, turning off lights and computer monitors, recycling printer and toner cartridges, purchasing reusable drinking bottles, recycling scrap paper, using porcelain dishes for lunch, photocopying on both sides of documents and using e-mail over paper are just a few of the ways the EcoSchools program is coming to life in our schools.



A Green Foundation

Our Board believes that it is important to lead by example. So are we doing to lead the way? Our Plant Department has developed a number of green strategies that support the work our school communities are doing. Reducing heat, hydro and water consumption, supporting a comprehensive recycling program, building green schools and using an environmentally friendly approach to cleaning are just a few of the ways our Board is setting a green foundation.



Environmental Design

New schools built in our Board are constructed in the spirit of **LEED** – the internationally recognized certification program highlighting **Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design**. All new buildings and renovations are designed to provide energy savings, water efficiency, low CO₂ emissions, improved indoor air quality and sensitivity to resources.

Out With The Old: Reducing Energy Consumption

In our existing schools, we are making changes by installing energy-efficient lights, ceiling fans, high-efficiency boilers, and new air handling equipment with sensors that allow a "run on demand" system. Simple steps like turning off exterior lighting at night can save up to \$25,000 per year. Our electrical costs have been reduced by over \$100,000 per year with these eco initiatives.

Greening Up The Cleaning

There are also green opportunities in the way we clean our schools. We have assessed our cleaning equipment, products and procedures and made changes that are healthier for our school environments and the environment around us. Some examples of green cleaning are auto-scrubbers that clean with ionized water instead of chemicals, environmentally friendly cleaning products and paper towels and foam hand soap that are dispensed in measured amounts.