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NORTHEAST RESOURCE
RECOVERY ASSOCIATION



PRESS RELEASE

Richard Maghakian Memorial School Filling the Earth's Bucket

Brookline, NH –Richard Maghakian Memorial School (RMMS) hosted three Back to the Earth Composting Workshops for their third-graders on Nov. 5. Generous funding from the Brookline PTO was matched by NH the Beautiful to make this possible.

RMMS students are implementing a composting program in honor of former Environmental Education teacher Mrs. Kathi Bond. It was Mrs. Bond who initiated their paper recycling program. Due to her inspiration, teachers take care of bottle and can recycling and Mrs. Dedecker spear-headed the building of a raised bed garden dedicated to Mrs. Bond, "The Common Bond Garden." The garden will eventually be nurtured by the compost generated by the daily food consumption at the school.

Last year's school theme was a "bucket filling." Students were encouraged to treat others with compassion and kindness, thus filling each other's buckets. This year they expanded the theme to "filling the Earth's bucket." Students are involved in recycling and environmental activities to treat the Earth with care and compassion.

Using an apple to represent the Earth, NRRA School CLUB Instructor Cindy Sterling demonstrated how very little of the Earth's surface is actually tillable soil, which makes it vital to reduce our waste and landfills. After a brief presentation on the compost cycle, she brought out composting worms and described their purpose. The students were quizzed on compostable items. Several of the students were already experienced by home composting programs. The third graders were encouraged learn all about the composting program so they could train the younger students. In this way, the composting program can be sustained for years to come. Special thanks to RMMS Teacher Kathleen Milewski, who organized the workshops.

Yard trimmings and food residuals together constitute 27 percent of the US municipal solid waste stream. That's a lot of waste to send to landfills when it could become useful and environmentally beneficial compost instead. Composting offers obvious resource management benefits and creates a useful product from organic waste that would otherwise have been landfilled. This workshop, available for all age groups, explains how composting works and how to make it work. If your school is interested in the environment, check out the School CLUB at www.schoolrecycling.net.



PHOTO 1: Cindy Sterling, School CLUB Educator, and Katie Milewski, Technology Teacher display “The Common Bond Garden” beds (NRRA courtesy photo).



PHOTO 2: CLUB Educator Cindy Sterling uses an apple to demonstrate the Earth’s arable land (NRRA courtesy photo).



PHOTO 3: Cindy Sterling, displays composting red worms (NRRA courtesy photo).



PHOTO 4: RMMS students are quizzed on compostable items (NRRA courtesy photo).

The School Recycling Club (The CLUB) is a program for all schools in New England and is supported by NRRRA and NH the Beautiful. For students and teachers in grades K-12, the CLUB serves as a centralized organization to become more active in the world of recycling. The CLUB is a fun and innovative way to give kids encouragement, direction and networking possibilities for school recycling programs. For more information visit www.schoolrecycling.net.

The Northeast Resource Recovery Association (NRRRA) is a proactive, non-profit organization that has worked for over 30 years with its membership to make their recycling programs strong, efficient and financially successful. For more information visit www.nrra.net.

New Hampshire the Beautiful, Inc. (NHtB) has been a longtime supporter of the NRRRA School Club and environmental education in NH. NHtB is a private non-profit charitable trust founded in 1983 and supported by the soft drink, malt beverage, and grocery industries of New Hampshire. NHtB offers municipal recycling grants, recycling education grants (over \$2.5 million), recycling signs, anti-litter programs, and technical assistance. NHtB is a unique organization that represents a voluntarily-funded alternative to expensive legislation intended to achieve the same end results. For more information visit: www.nhthebeautiful.org.