

Contact: **Gwen Erley**  
Programs Coordinator  
Phone: (603)736.4401 ext. 19  
gerley@nrra.net

2101 Dover Road  
Epsom, NH 03234  
www.nrra.net

**NORTHEAST RESOURCE  
RECOVERY ASSOCIATION**



# PRESS RELEASE – 06/21/19

## Maple Wood Elementary Students Find Treasures in Trash

Somersworth, NH – On June 4, Maple Wood Elementary School third-graders conducted a school waste audit, known as Trash On the Lawn Day (TOLD). Educators Sarah McGraw, Julia Le May and Gwen Erley from NRRA's School Recycling CLUB, trained 120 students how to identify and pull recyclables from a sampling of typical school trash.

Outfitted with recyclable gloves, each group of students was given several bags of trash which were weighed, sorted into bins, then weighed again. When sorting was completed the students had a visual and quantifiable record of how much of their "trash" could have been diverted from the landfill. While the school has a successful food waste program through Mr. Fox Composting, and a good recycling program, the students still saw opportunities to improve their efforts. They also found a cafeteria tray, headsets and some batteries, prompting a discussion of battery recycling and safety. The students asked lots of questions and learned that diverting recyclables and reducing food waste saves energy, natural resources and landfill space. Classes from other grades came out to observe throughout the day, including a group from the high school. Special guest observers/participants from the Somersworth School Board included Mark Richardson and Maggie Larson.

Many thanks to Fourth Grade Teacher Emily Grohs for her tremendous support in spear-heading this event, and to the class teachers who helped to maintain order and reinforce the recycling lessons. Additional thanks to Wendy Berkeley, the Somersworth Farm to School Coordinator, who was instrumental in securing funding for this program and provided her expertise throughout the day.

Special thanks to Facilities Director Karl Ingoldsby and Custodian Gloria Morin, who provided invaluable assistance with logistics. This event would not have been possible without the support of Principal Devin McNelly who authorized this all-day educational event.

This event was free to the school thanks to funding provided by the Somersworth Farm to School program, along with a generous grant from New Hampshire the Beautiful.

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**The School Recycling CLUB (The CLUB)** is a program for all schools in New England and is supported by NRRA 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](http://www.schoolrecycling.net).

**The Northeast Resource Recovery Association (NRRA)** is a proactive, non-profit organization formed in 1981 that works with its membership to make their recycling programs strong, efficient and financially successful. For more information, visit [www.nrra.net](http://www.nrra.net).

**New Hampshire the Beautiful, Inc. (NHtB)** has been a longtime supporter of NRRA's School Recycling 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/](http://www.nhthebeautiful.org/).

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**Photo 1: Somersworth Farm to School Coordinator Wendy Berkeley (right) coaches Maple Wood Elem. students during the waste audit (NRRA photo)**



**Photo 2: Maple Wood Elem. student questions why someone would throw out a whole sandwich. (NRRA photo)**



**Photo 3: Students from Maple Wood Elem. work together as trash sorters and bin monitors for an accurate sort. (NRRA photo)**