

Tomahawk Elementary  
6301 W 78th St, Shawnee Mission  
Overland Park, KS

January 27, 2010

Johnson County Environmental Department  
11811 S. Sunset Dr. Ste 2700  
Olathe, KS 66061

To whom it may concern,

Tomahawk Elementary school has made great efforts in the 2009-2010 school year, to not only reduce waste, but to bring environmental awareness to the children attending the school. A waste management program was set up in the school and with the help of a state funded 'Solid Waste Management' grant, the program was able to far exceed expectations.

Initially, a green team was formed at the beginning of the school year called the HiP (Healthy Planet) team. The team is comprised of children, parents, teachers, the principal and nurse. The meetings are held once a week to tackle environmental issues. Reduction of waste was a priority for the school so a composting program was started, where kids compost food wastes during breakfast and lunches. The school has successfully reduced food waste from 6 to 8 garbage bags full per day to less than 1. Kids from the HiP were taught the process of composting food and paper products holding food, and they educated their peers.

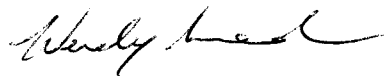
Our second priority was to expand our recycling program. We purchased recycling bins for all the classrooms and our HiP team diligently empties the bins once a week. With the addition of an extra outside recycling container, we are now able to recycle cardboard, aluminum, plastics and cans. We even have a recycling bin for glass. The glass, however, needs to be dropped off at various locations that have Ripple Glass containers.

Other things that we have accomplished with the help of the kids are a HiP library corner. We have researched various topics related to waste reduction as well as other topics such as endangered animals and have created an area in the school library specifically devoted to such issues. During class parties, kids are reducing waste by using cloth napkins instead of paper napkins. We have even invited guest speakers to speak and inform the school about the need to look after the environment.



Our passion for teaching the kids to reduce waste will continue throughout the school year. We intent to run a paper drive in March, begin recycling juice pouches, such as Capri Sun and write another grant to keep the program alive.

Thank you for your consideration,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Wendy Madarasz". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long, sweeping tail that extends to the right.

Wendy Madarasz (parent and co-leader of HiP team)