

Saving the Earth; One Cadet at a Time!



General Tommy Franks Elementary



We wanted to save the Earth and make it a better place, but how? We are just kids, but we had an idea! Here is how it went and what we did!

Advisor: Cadi Gillette

Goal 1: Design a school recycling program.

In Midland we have very limited places to take recycling and most people view it as a hassle. We decided to change that and make our school a drop off spot for recyclable materials.

- We made recycling posters around our school to spread awareness on the importance of recycling.
- We also sorted and separated various recycling items that we got from each classroom; and whichever class had the most recycling items at the end of each month would win a prize. This is to encourage all of the grade levels to bring more recycling items to school.
- We also went to our Kindergarten - 4th grade classrooms to teach them about recycling and what they can do to make the world a better place.

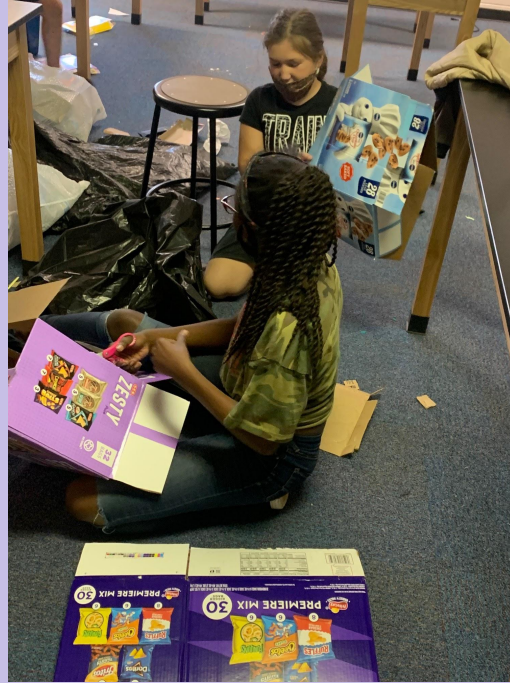


Recycling Roundup!

- We taught our fellow students how most plastics are made and that recycling everyday items can reduce energy usage tremendously.
- We were lucky enough to partner with our local Keep Midland Beautiful organization. They provided the funds we needed to work with a recycling company to pick up our sorted recycling each week.
- B&K Recycling helped us not only by picking up our recyclables but by teaching us the proper way to recycle.
- We are also collecting bottle caps for a Buddy Bench at our school. We are a little over halfway to our goal of 200 pounds of bottle caps!
- We met with our Keep Midland Beautiful advisor every couple of months and she taught us lessons on saving natural resources, how to properly recycle Christmas items, and she helped us create lessons that we could teach the younger grade levels.

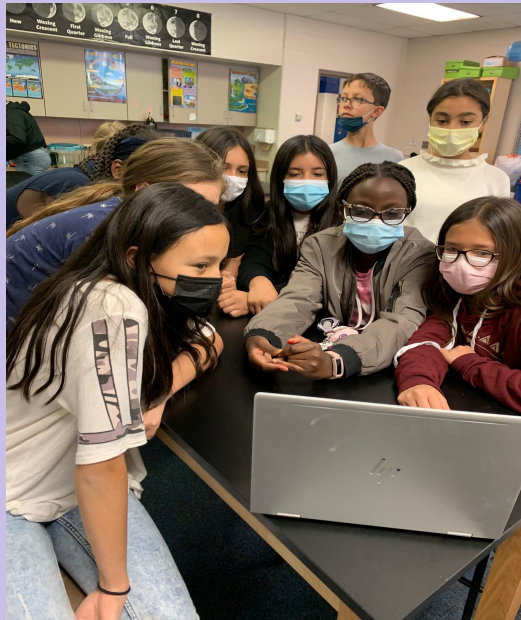


The Green Team in Action!



Achieving and Receiving

This year we have been on a different schedule than normal due to COVID-19. We made due with what we had due to restrictions not allowing us to complete competitions we usually would enter. We collected well over 4,000 recyclable items a month.



How Can One Cadet Make a Difference?

Goal #2: Make a difference in our community by picking up litter.



Our school is named after General Tommy Franks and we strive to be four star leaders like him. We got together this year and mapped out goals to make a difference not only at our school, but for our community. We noticed an abundance of litter all over town and decided to take it into our own hands.

Activities:

We reached out to other grade levels and encouraged them to join our battle against litter. We completed several community service projects together!



Outside activities

We occasionally go out to specific locations in our community on Saturdays to cleanup until it is green team clean! Our first adventure was in the great outdoors of the I-20 Wildlife Preserve. We followed the trail, made sure there was no trash by the ponds or in the grass and made sure it was ready for its' local animals to thrive without any litter interruptions. We did this from our hearts without being forced to do so. At the end of the day, not only did we help our community, we also helped make our local ecosystem clean. We had so much fun we were ecstatic that our teachers were involved and we couldn't believe how much we could change a few hours.



KMB Days and Saturday Fun Days!

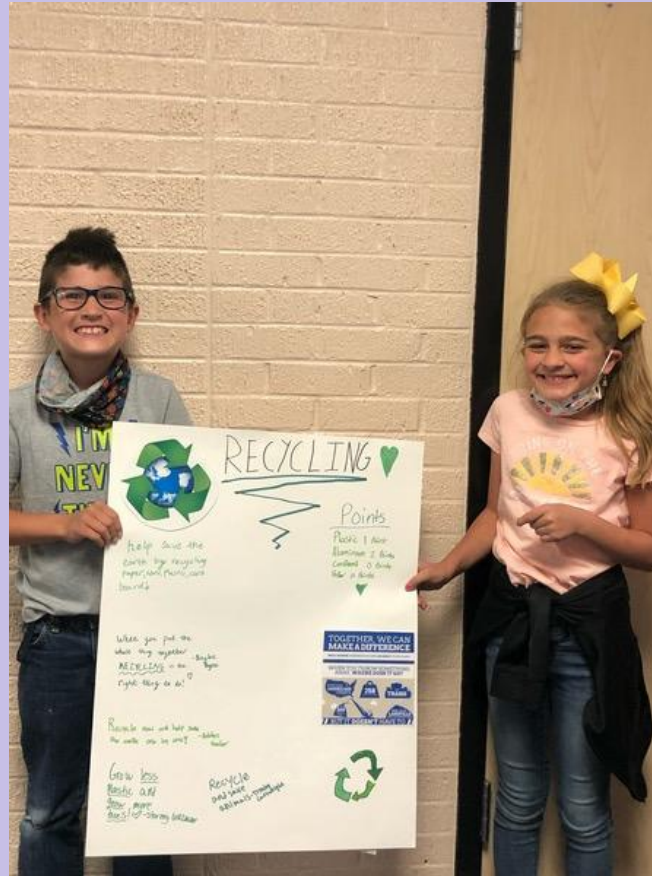
(Community service and green team in action)



This is us having an amazing time helping our community with teamwork and leadership! We loved seeing how many bags we could fill with trash, and see how much progress we made. Our campus does this event twice a year!

Why is Recycling Important to Our World?

Recycling is important because it helps our environment stay green and clean. It also helps us conserve natural resources for our future generations. We will lose our lovely animals due to all the litter stuck in their habitats causing habitat loss. Less habitats, less animals. We prevented this by giving each classroom a bin for whatever plastic, cardboard, and aluminum they have in their classrooms.

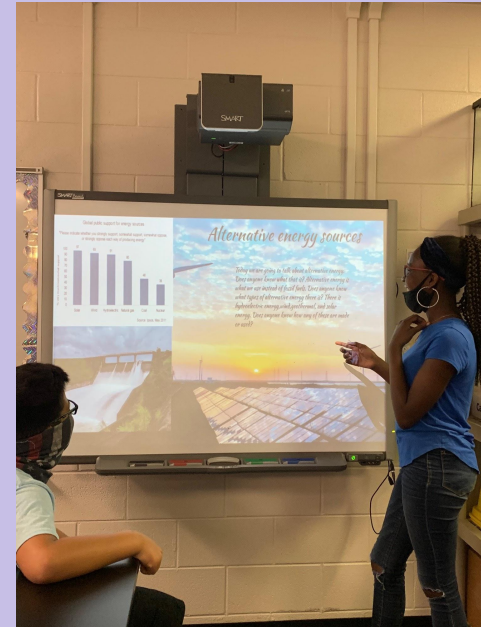


We couldn't have done this without our sponsor Ms. Gillette! She gathered a team of leaders that would be capable of this challenge. Thus making "The Green Team". We came during recess and went to every classroom, office and workroom to pick up recycling then sorted all the items.

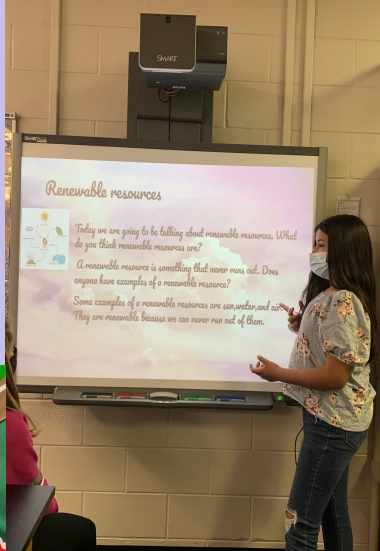
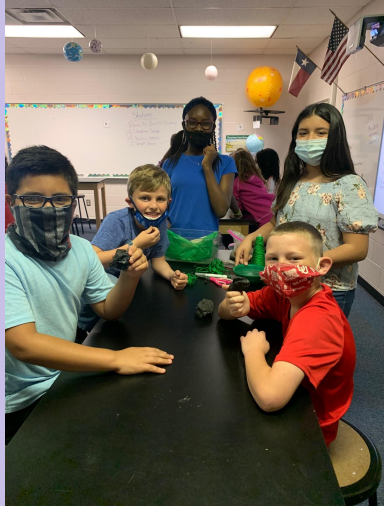
Goal 3: Teach the lower grade levels about renewable and nonrenewable energy.

Along with recycling we went to the younger grades to teach them about the different types of nonrenewable and renewable energies ,conserving them,as well as the advantages and the disadvantages of each.

- We demonstrated how our non-renewable resources are made using everyday items you can find at home.
- We also discussed what our renewable resources were, and why we need to conserve them. We calculated how many energy points it took to get to school using the NEED Energy activity.
- We made a graphic organizer to show the advantages and disadvantages of all renewable and nonrenewable energy sources.

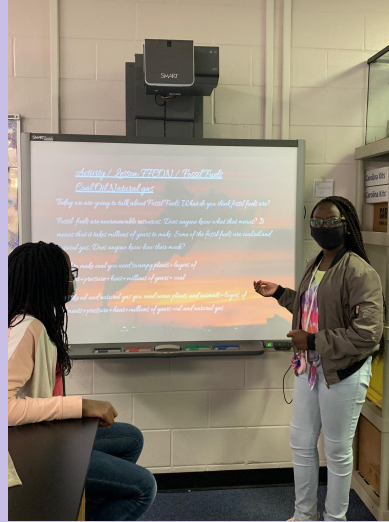


Renewable and Non-Renewable Resources



Non-Renewable

Non-Renewable resources are things that once we use them it will take millions of years to get them back. This means we must use less fossil fuels so we don't create more pollution which is bad for the environment. We demonstrated many ways to use these resources wisely.



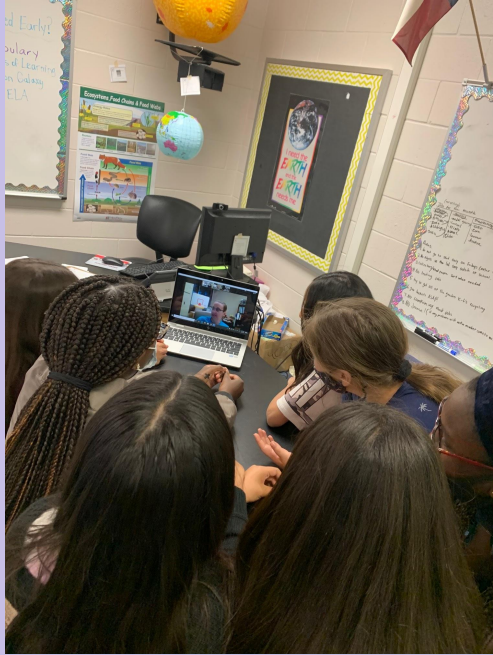
Renewable

Renewable resources are things that will replenish themselves in a short amount of time. We can use these resources over and over again. For example, things like water, plants as well as solar and geothermal energy. We demonstrated how each of these are used and created. We created solar cars and investigated how they worked.

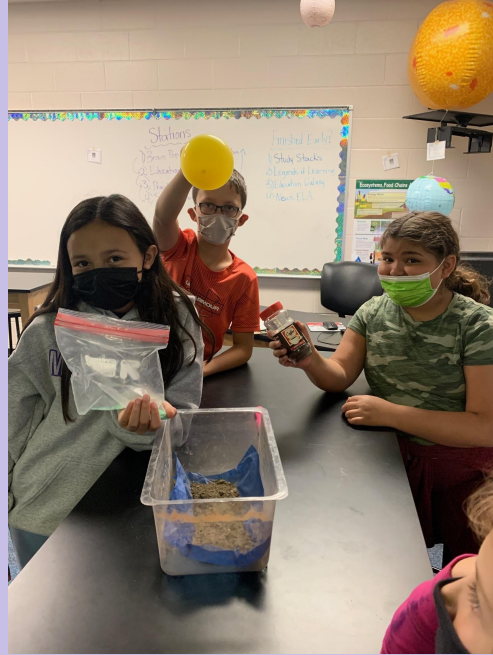
The Clean Team in Action!



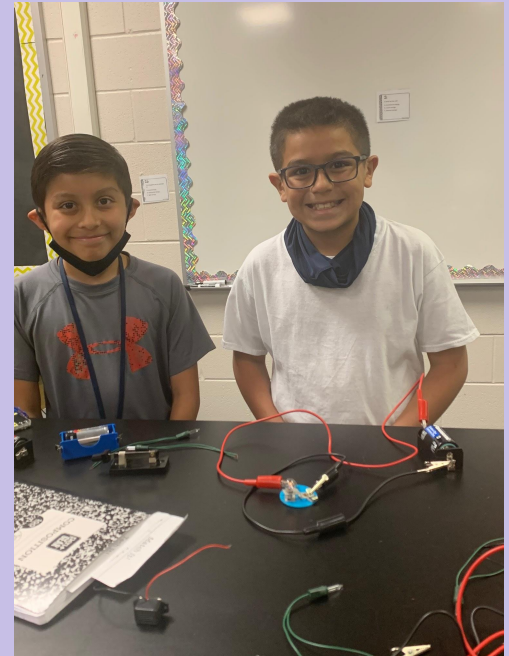
Footage of Our Lessons!



Zoom Meeting with Keep Midland Beautiful.



Showing 3rd graders fossil fuel formation.



Demonstrating how to conserve electrical energy.

Reaching Our Goals!

Throughout this year we've had a marvelous time teaching our younger generations the importance of recycling, renewable and non-renewable resources and litter prevention. We have grown closer, not just as a campus but a community. Our leadership skills have improved by learning from this experience. We're not only helping out our school, but we're changing our environment one Cadet at a time! We hope we inspire our younger Cadets, and we hope they continue our legacy seeing as it is our last year at our elementary school.

