

General Tommy Franks Elementary

Saving the Earth One Student at a Time



Advisor: Cadi Gillette

We needed to find a way to inform the world about why recycling is so important. How would we do this? We're just kids. Well we decided that we wanted to make a difference, no matter how small. So we created "Saving the Earth One Student at a Time".

What is “Saving the Earth one student at a time”?

Our goal was to enlighten our school and community about recycling, energy conservation and alternative energy sources.

Goal 1: Recycling

Activities:

We taught every classroom with hands on interactive lessons about how products are recycled, what can be recycled and why it is so important.

We organized a schoolwide recycling competition where every homeroom brought recycling from home to be recycled and we ended up recycling thousands of water bottles over several months.



Outside of school

We also did activities out of school to help the community. For example we cleaned up parks in our city to keep our city clean. People from around our community helped us clean. We had two Saturday clean up days and weekly recess clean ups throughout the year. We had a lot of fun! We also love how our teachers were a part of it too. This day meant a lot to us because we are changing the world day by day. We realized what an extreme difference we could make in just a couple hours.



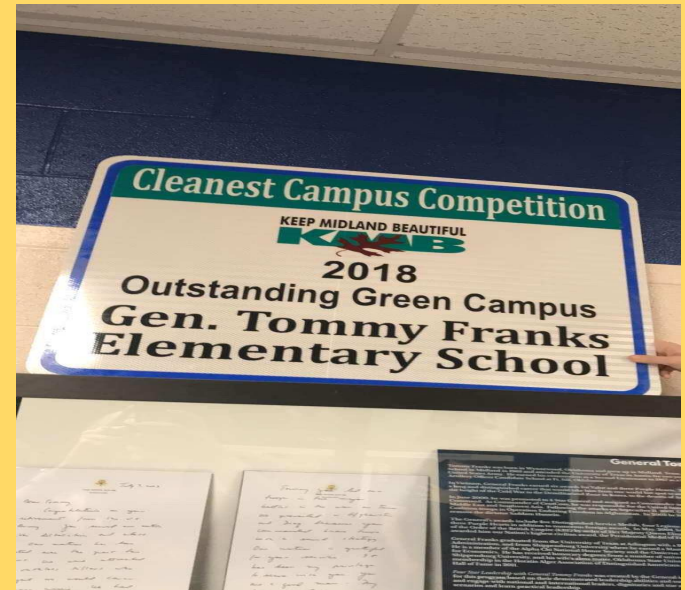
KEEP MIDLAND BEAUTIFUL 2019



This is us cleaning up the parks on a beautiful Saturday morning. We all had a blast helping our community during this city project. Every person in each group had a trash bag to put the trash in. Our school does this twice every school year.

Awards we've won

We won this award for “Outstanding Green Campus” in 2018.

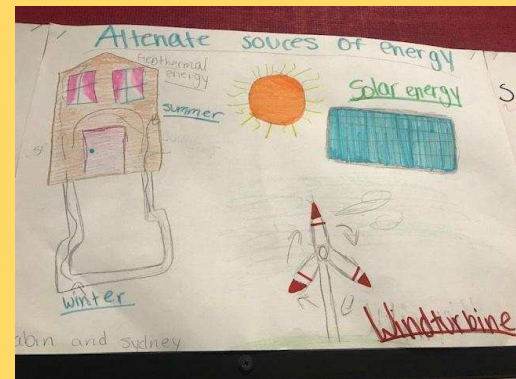
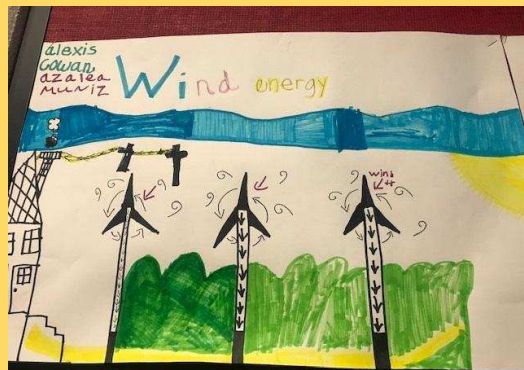


Goal 2: Advantages of Alternative Energy

Along with recycling we also taught the students about conserving energy and the different types of alternative energy.

Activities:

- We helped the younger grades build solar cars, wind turbines and hydropower turbines.
- We discussed the advantages and disadvantages of each alternative energy.
- We helped students draw and create posters of each alternative energy.



Circuits



We taught 2nd grade and demonstrated how circuits work. We also showed them different kinds of circuits like parallel and series circuits. The kids were very entertained by the way circuits worked especially the way chargers worked. We talked about switches and how easy and important it is to conserve energy.



How Circuits Work?

A electric circuit is like a pathway made of wires that electrons can flow through. A battery or other power source gives it energy. A series circuit has one path and a parallel circuit has multiple paths. Energy can be converted from electricity to thermal, light, mechanical and sound energy. The role of a switch is to turn the circuit off and on. It is important to turn the switch off when not in use. It is also important to unplug items when you are not using them so phantom energy is not wasted.

This is a sample lesson guide from one of our outreach lessons.

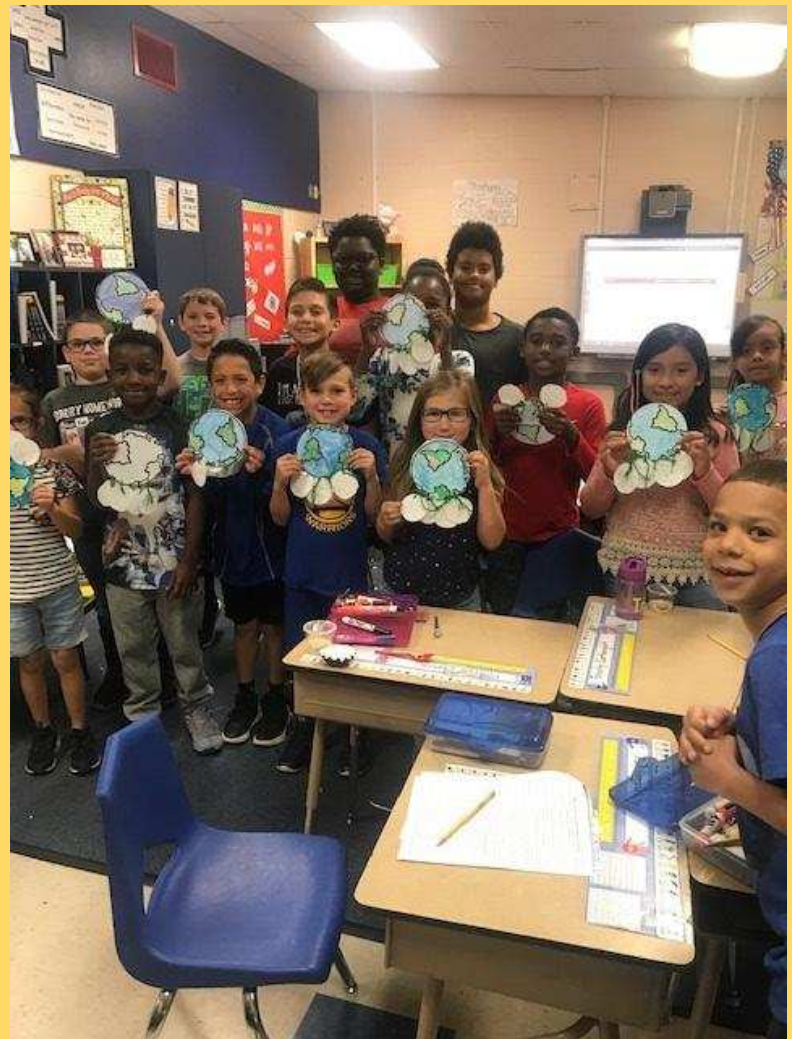
What you need to build a circuit:

1. You will need a power source.
2. 2 insulated wires
3. A light bulb & light bulb holder
4. A switch
5. Design a series and parallel circuit using these materials.

GOALS 3 : Energy Conservation

One of our goals is to save energy at our school and inspire others to conserve energy at their homes.

During recess we went to third grade classrooms and showed them videos about conserving energy. We then made posters about ways to conserve energy and had them set an energy saving goal for their household. We also went around our campus and turned off lights and appliances that were not in use.



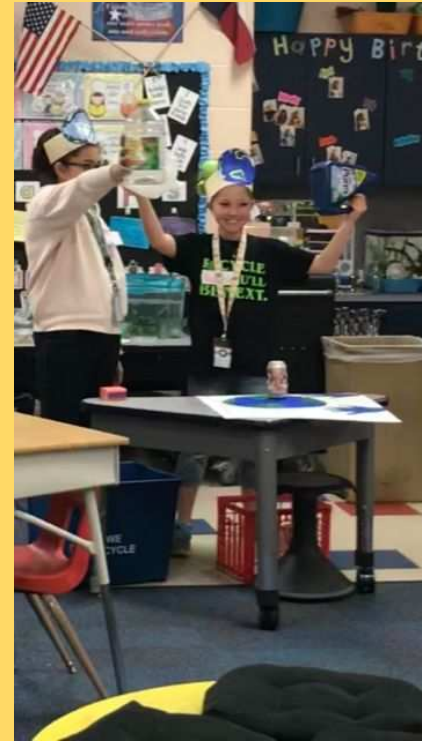
WHY IS IT IMPORTANT TO RECYCLE?

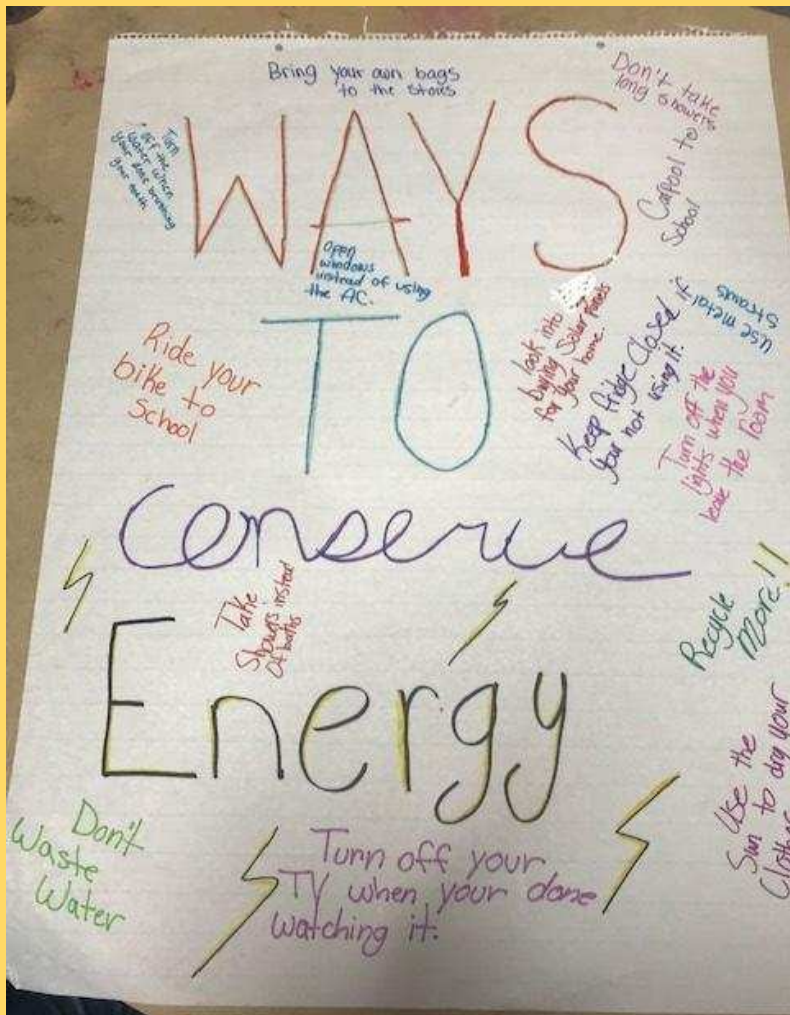
It's important to recycle because we need to conserve the Earth's natural resources for future generations. We will also lose animals due to habitat loss. We made sure every classroom had a recycling bin and created a "green team" that would go around at recess to pick up and sort recycled materials from the teacher's lounge, office, workroom and every classroom.

A local business sponsored us and we made "clean team" and "green team" t-shirts and had money to buy more recycling bins.



Outreach Projects in Primary Classrooms





The Green Team at Work!



The Clean Team at Work



Reaching Our Goals

This year we have had a blast teaching our fellow cadets about recycling, alternative energy and energy conservation! We grew closer as a campus and a community. Our leadership skills were put to the test and we learned from these experiences. We hope to inspire the younger grade levels and hope they continue our legacy as this is our last year at our elementary school.