

O'Connell College Preparatory School

OC Green Team... Putting the **Green** Back in Galveston

Advisor: Nina Corley

This year marked the 6th year since the creation of O'Connell's OC Green Team. The projects the team has put emphasis on this year are the expansion of our in school and community recycling programs. Sharing the "Science behind Recycling" in our school as well as in our community and providing recycling pick up within our school and community through maintaining a booth at the Farmer's Market and at community festivals and activities, such as the Lone Star Bike Rally, Dickens on the Strand, Mardi Gras, and several iron man competitions. We have also promoted and expanded Gardening on the island, as well as sharing our produce and what we have learned with the community, helping to educate the community not only about the science behind recycling, providing a place to recycle, but educating about the dangers of plastics in our ocean and climate change in our area and letting them know what they can do to make a difference in our community and our world. Each of the activities were proceeded by The Green Team participating in learning activities and field trips to build our foundation of knowledge to enable us to share what we had learned with our community, both within school and beyond our walls to reach our community and those visiting for the events.

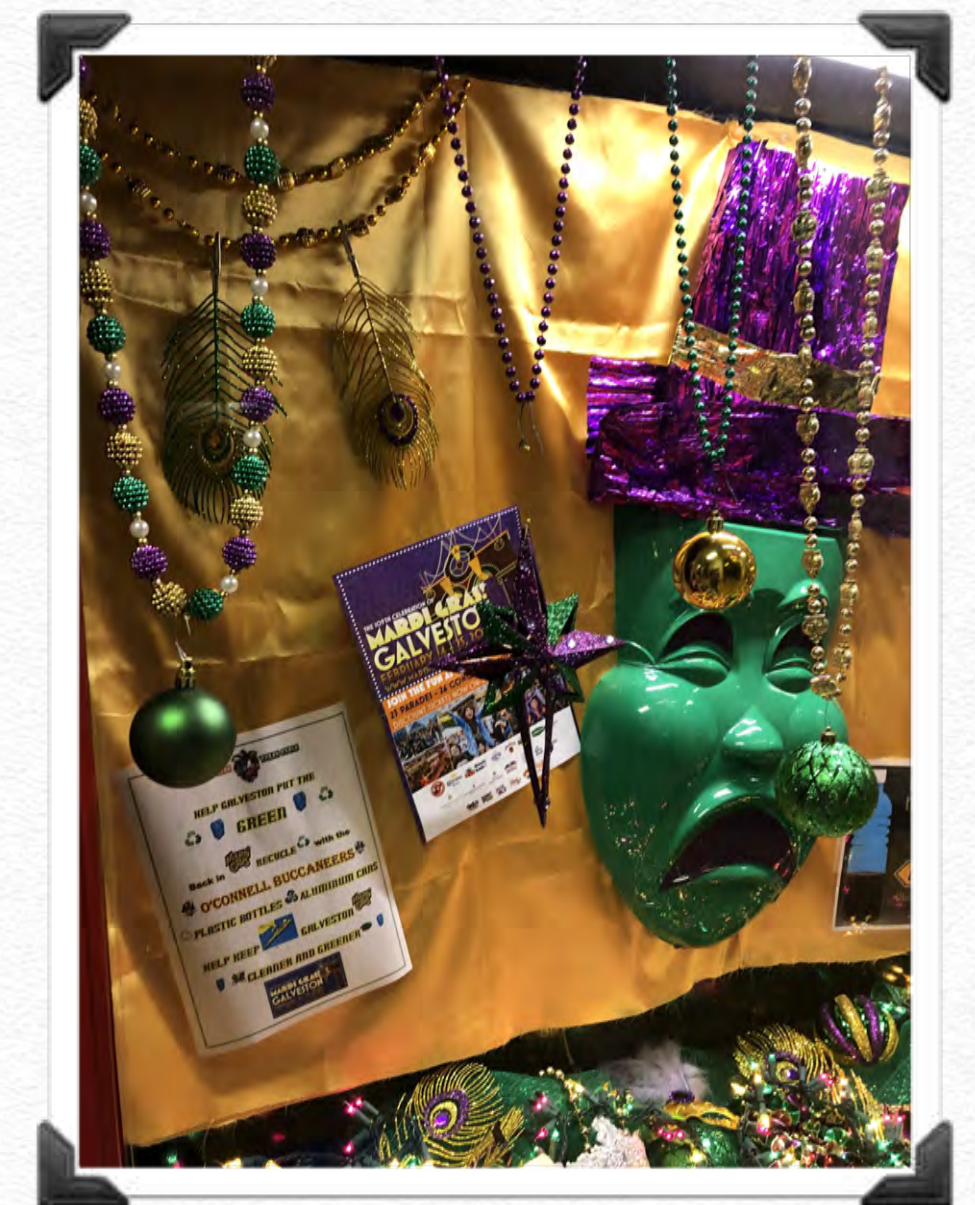
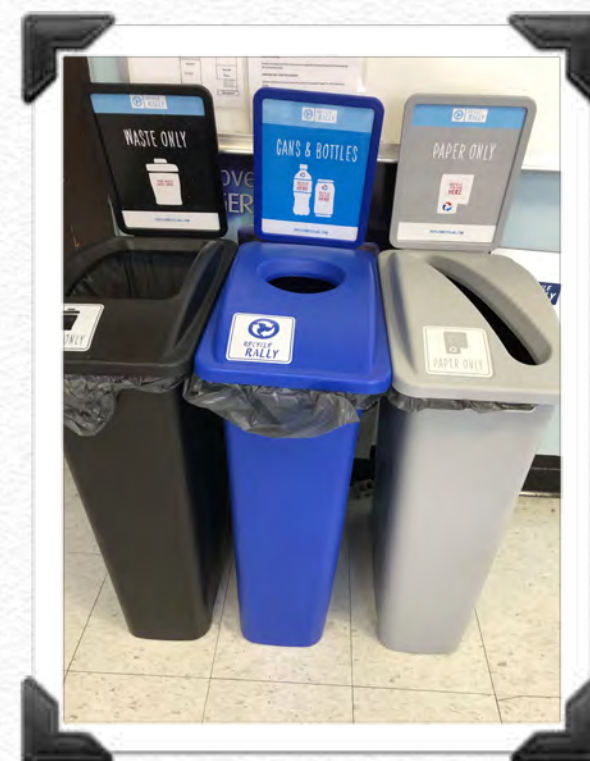
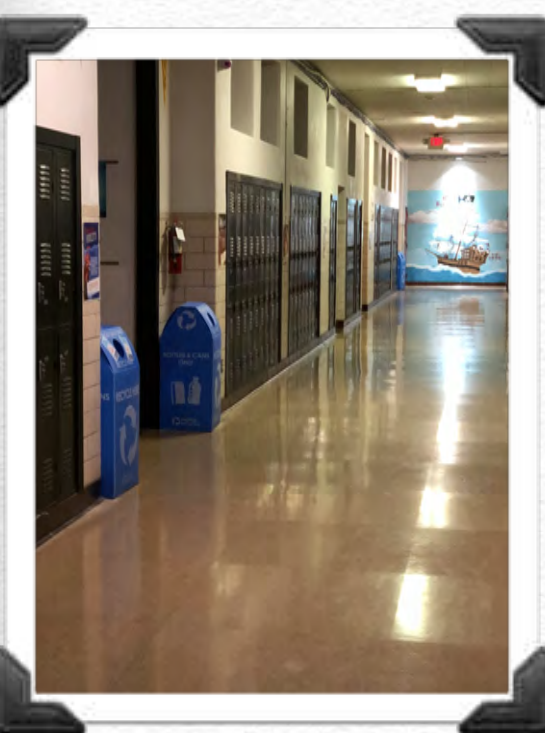




Recycling Goals



- ❖ Goal: to promote a recycling culture throughout the entire school, providing more recycling bins , adding bins for materials not recycle before and getting buy in from the entire student body and staff.

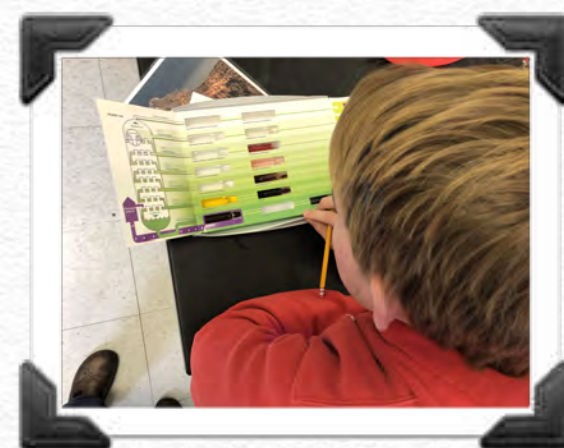
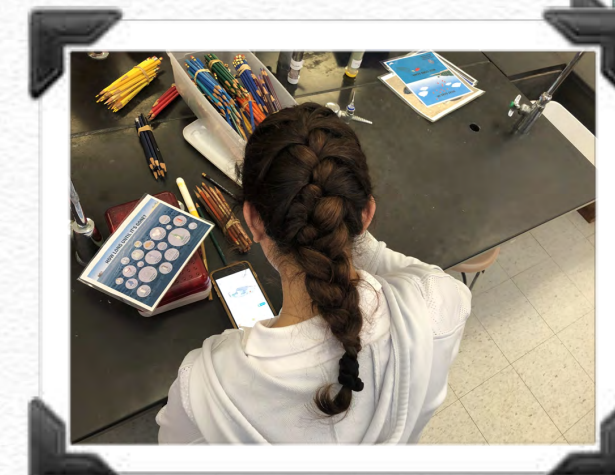
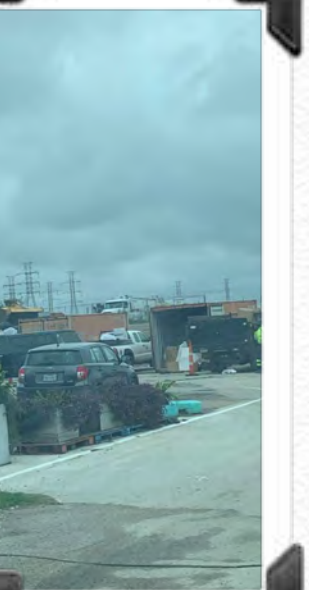




Activities and Task

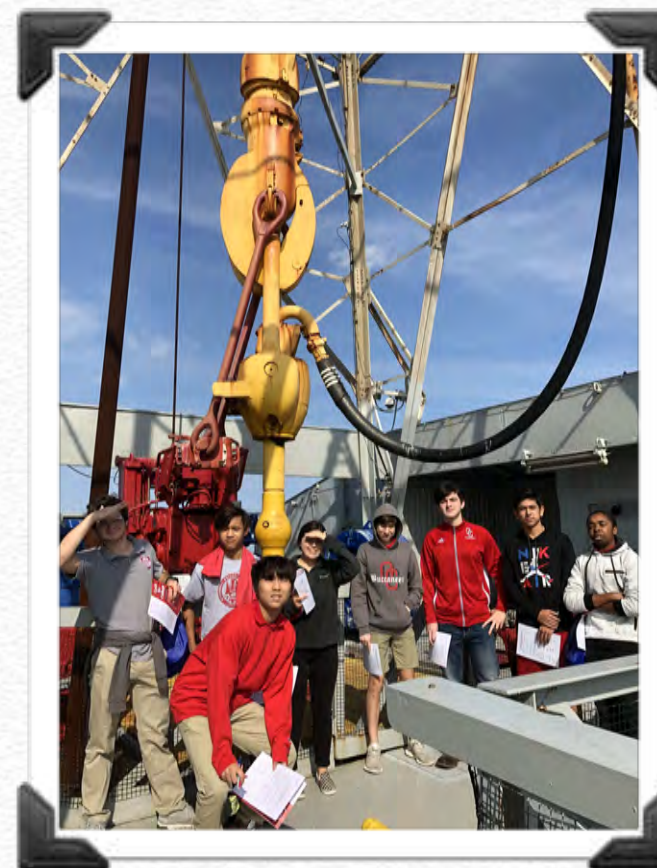
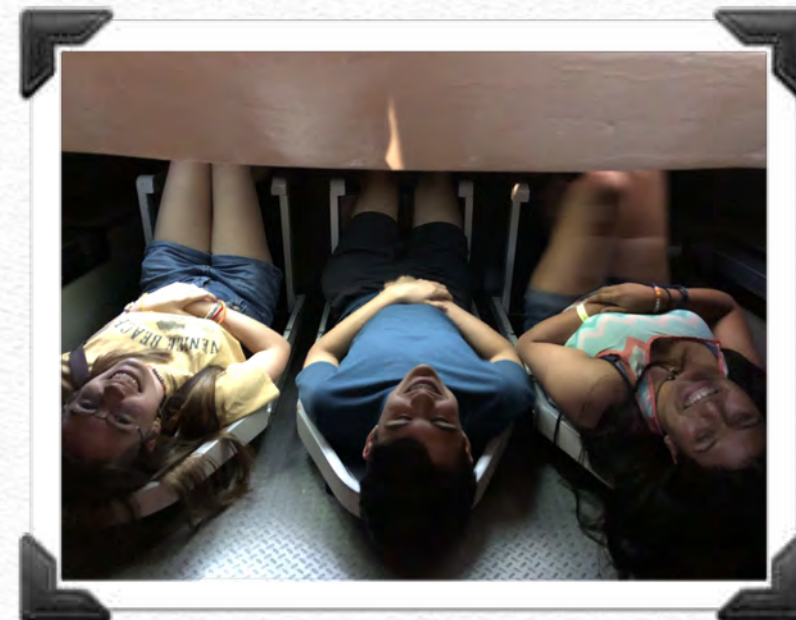


- ❖ Obtained permission from Principal and the School Board
- ❖ Student sign up to be a member of the OC Green Team
- ❖ Learned about the science behind recycling, sources and forms of energy and how they relate to recycling and to climate change in our area in order to build a background from which to teach others
- ❖ Field trips to both NASA and The Ocean Star Drilling Rig Museum to learn about Recycling in Space , the Moon and Mars and about how the petroleum for plastics is obtained, and Careers in the energy industry
- ❖ Team Members chose jobs (checking recycling, making sure they were emptied in a timely manner, taking to the various facilities to recycle according to material etc. (later carried out their jobs.
- ❖ Obtained recycle bins through Pepsico Recycle Rally
- ❖ Distributed recycle bins around the campus, in the classrooms, cafeterias, gym, outdoor playing fields, garden, hallways (recycle bins for cans, bottles, paper, and for kpod coffee filters and compost)
- ❖ Put up signs to promote recycling, around and on the bins
- ❖ Created a Display on recycling for the front entry of school during Mardi Gras
- ❖ Manned displays at the Open House , in the cafeteria, and in classrooms explaining the Science Behind Recycling and why it is beneficial specifically to our school.
- ❖ Collected the recycling from the bins and delivered to the appropriate facilities
- ❖ Chemical Engineer guest speakers came in to speak about the plastics industry
- ❖ Followed up with thank you notes to the visitors and guest speakers

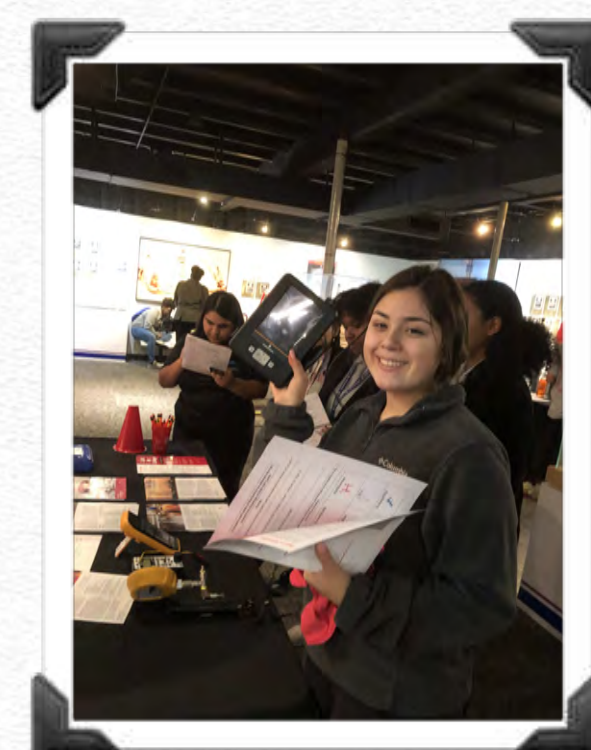




Field Trips for Learning

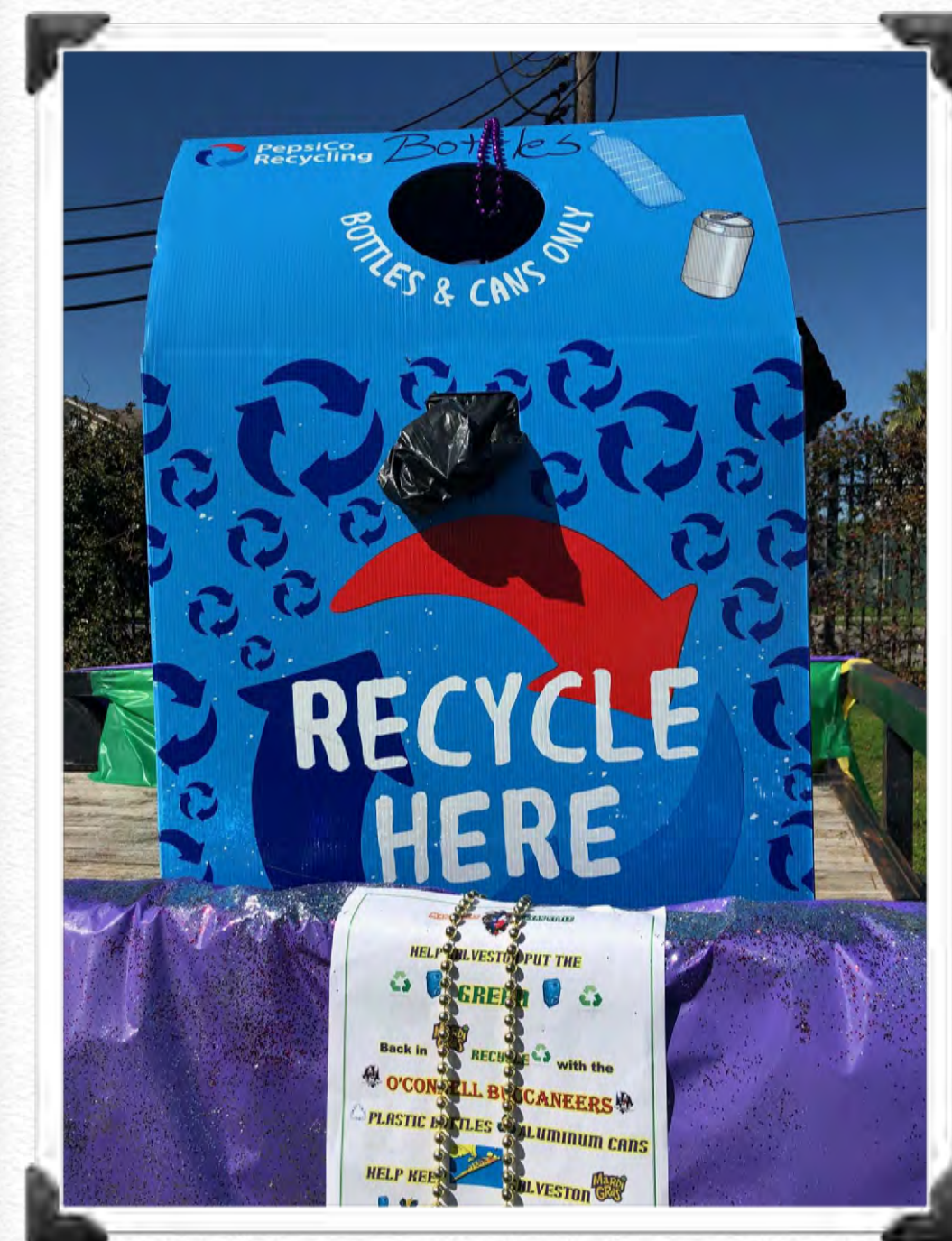


- ❖ NASA (Space Center Houston)
- ❖ Ocean Star Drilling Rig Museum



Community Recycling Goals

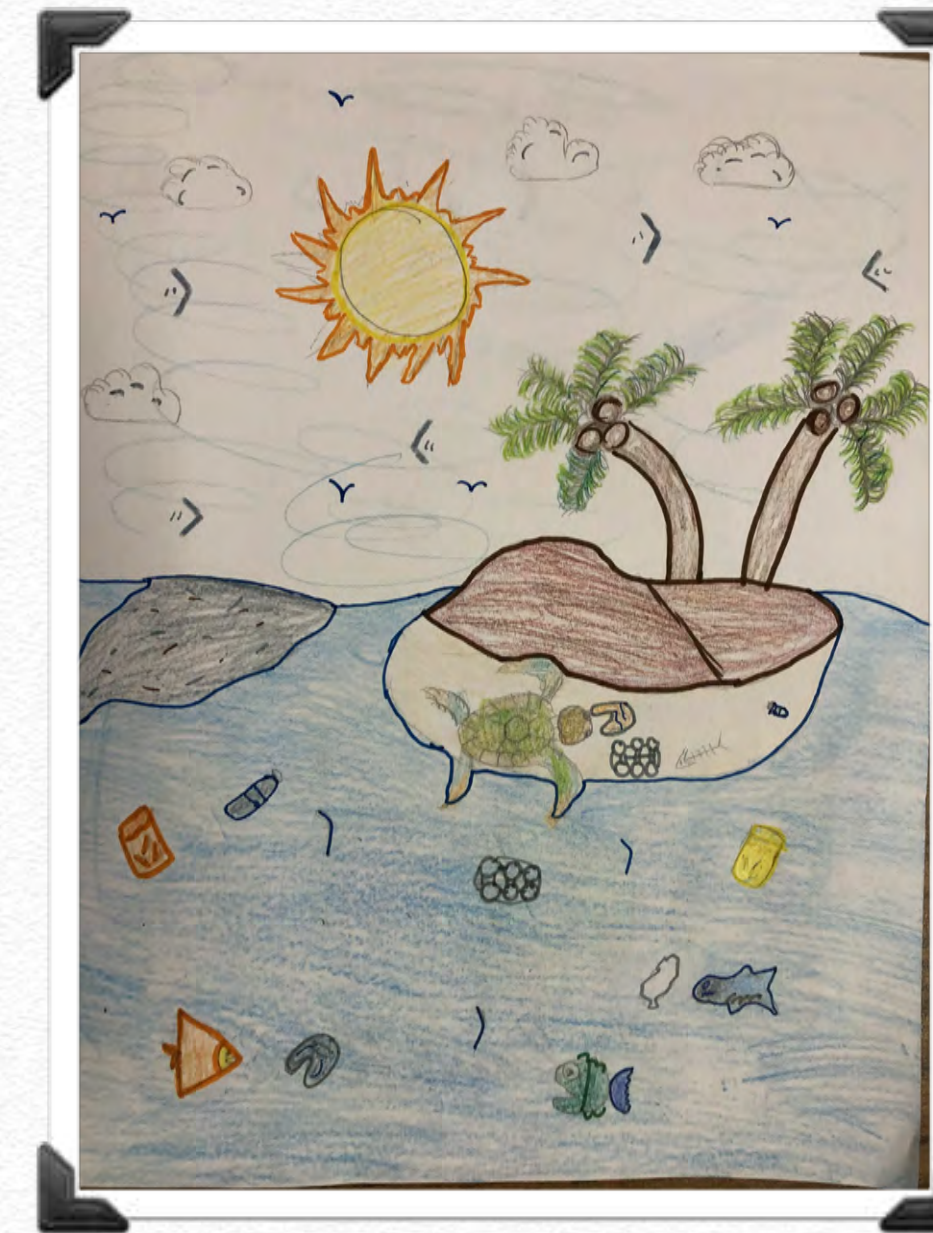
- ❖ To share information with the community about recycling and promote recycling at community events



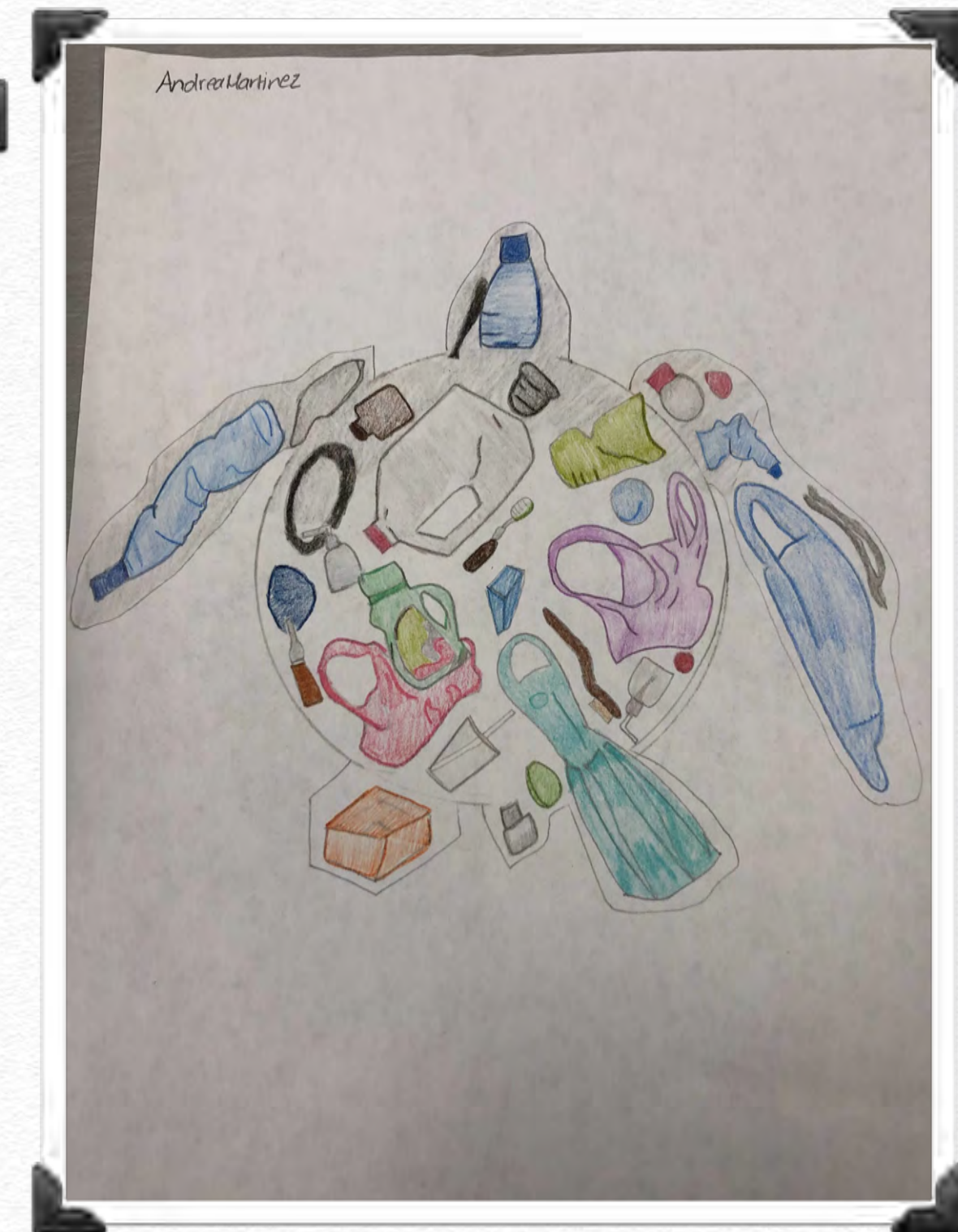
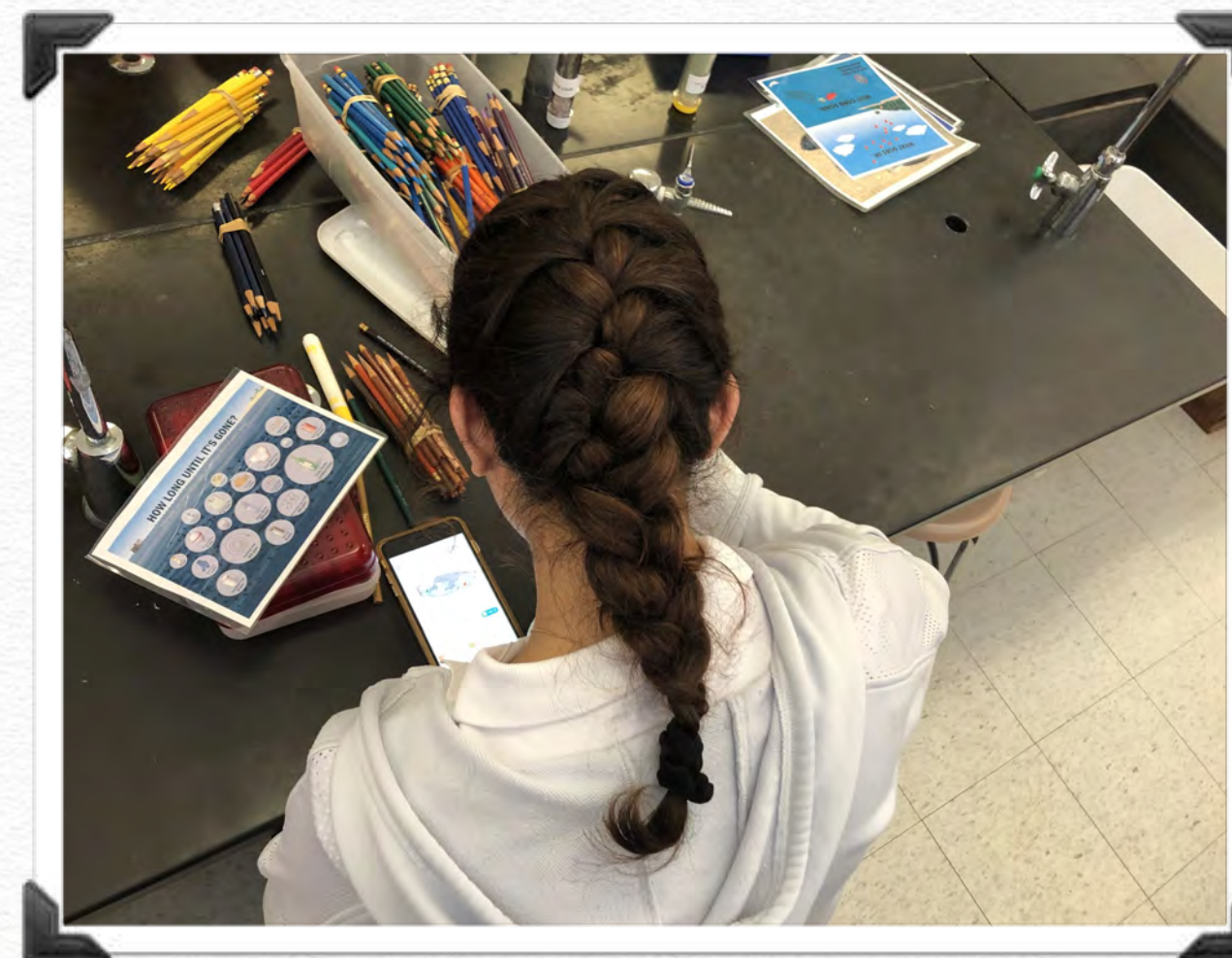
Activities and Tasks

- ❖ Obtained permission for students from the Principal and parents to participate in activity off school grounds
- ❖ Obtained permission for students to set up a booth at Galveston's Own Farmer's Market bi-monthly to share information about recycling and the science behind recycling to promote recycling in the community.
- ❖ Team Members collected community recycling at the Farmer's Market bi weekly and carried it to the recycling facilities so that the people they were able to convince to recycle would have a way to do so
- ❖ Team members volunteered and collected recycling at Dickens on the strand, Mardi Gras and the Iron Man races
- ❖ Creating designs to decorate our bucket (trash can) for the Beautify the Bucket Contest to be placed at the beach to collect plastics





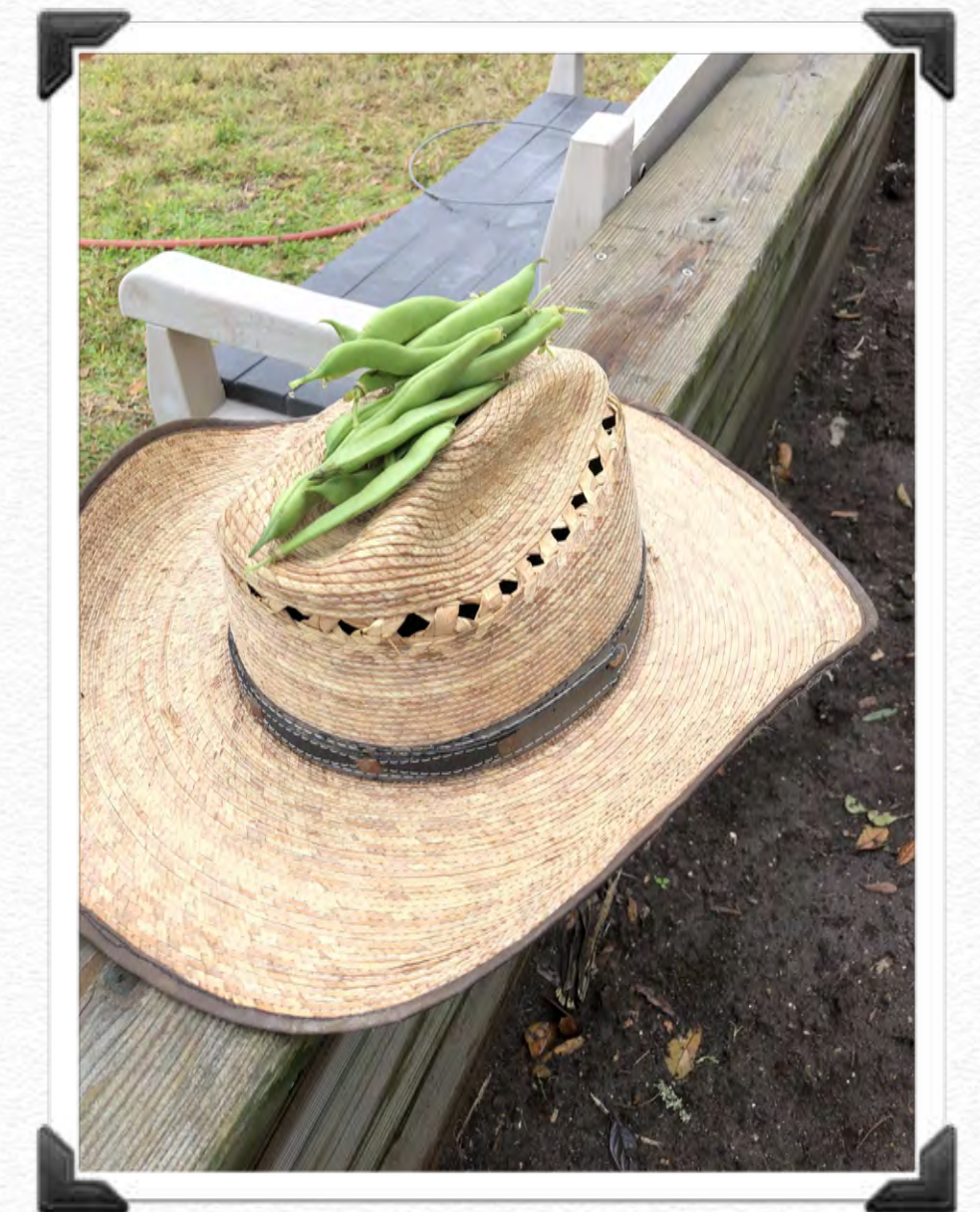
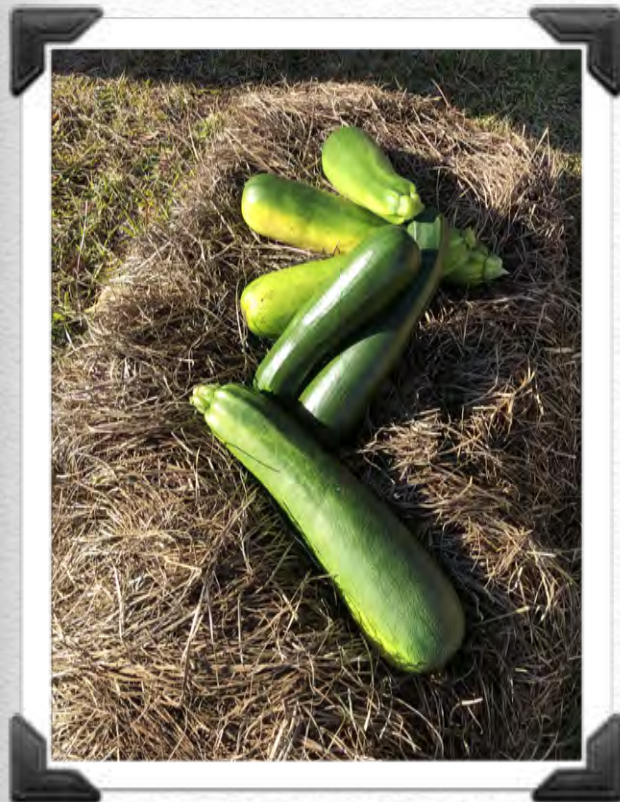
❖ Designs for beautify the bucket program to promote recycling down on the beach





Garden Goals

- ❖ Continue to Expand our outdoor garden classroom learning the best gardening techniques and crops to grow on the island and share what we have learned about gardening on the island with the community as well as sharing the crops we have harvested with the community and learning how to prepare those to eat and expand cooking classes to our student body and the community, combining these efforts with the recycling project in working with the Farmer's Market.



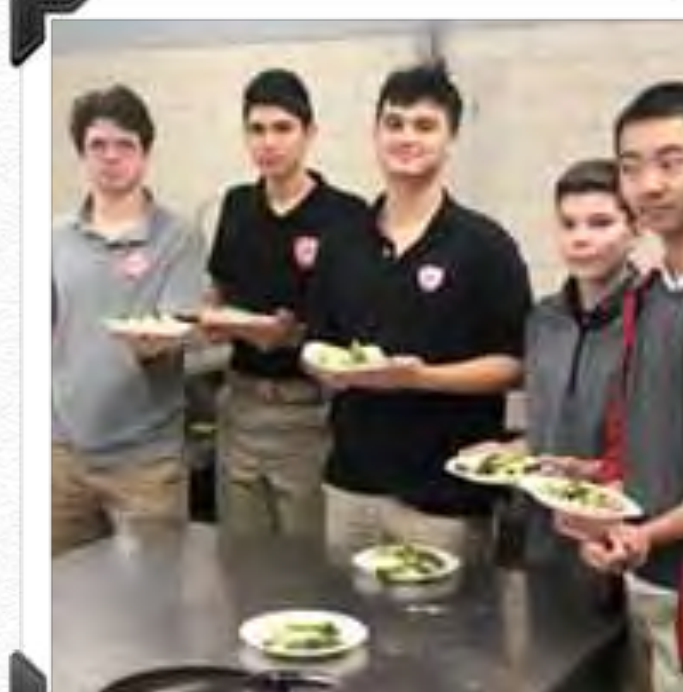


Activities and Task

- ❖ Research gardening types to see what will work best on the island
- ❖ Trying out new gardening methods we implemented the 3 sisters methods after researching Native American Gardening techniques
- ❖ Coordinated soil testing with the Agriculture extension agency and Texas A&M
- ❖ Master Gardeners and local farmers come in to share knowledge and help evaluate the garden
- ❖ Coordinated with the community and gathered horse manure to use as fertilizer as well as expanding our worm farm and composting at school
- ❖ Gathered ashes from community camp fires to use to help control ph of soil
- ❖ Planted and harvested crops
- ❖ Held cooking classes that included urban farming techniques and taught attendees how to prepare the food grown
- ❖ Using Solar Ovens to prepare produce
- ❖ Donated food to the Farmer's Market WIC program (providing free fresh vegetables to those on food stamps and wic)
- ❖ Made soup and salsa from the Garden Produce and distributed at the open house, in the school and at the Farmer's Market.

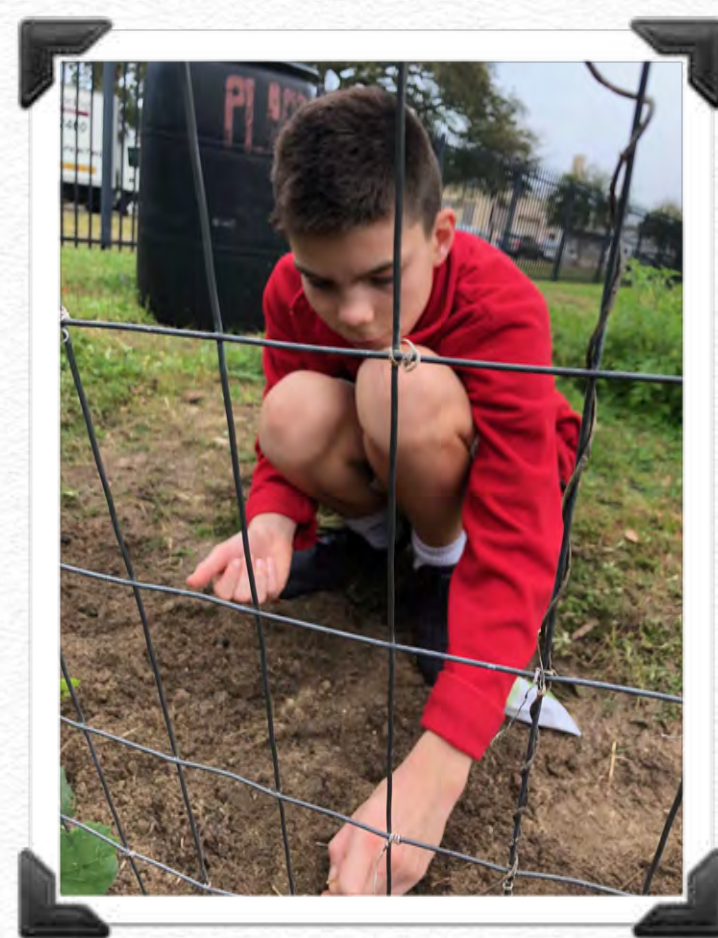
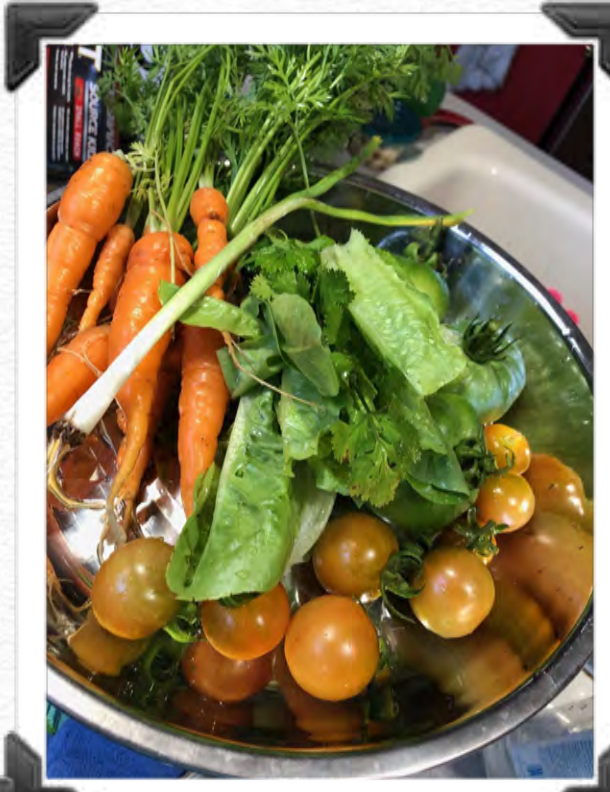


Garden Activities



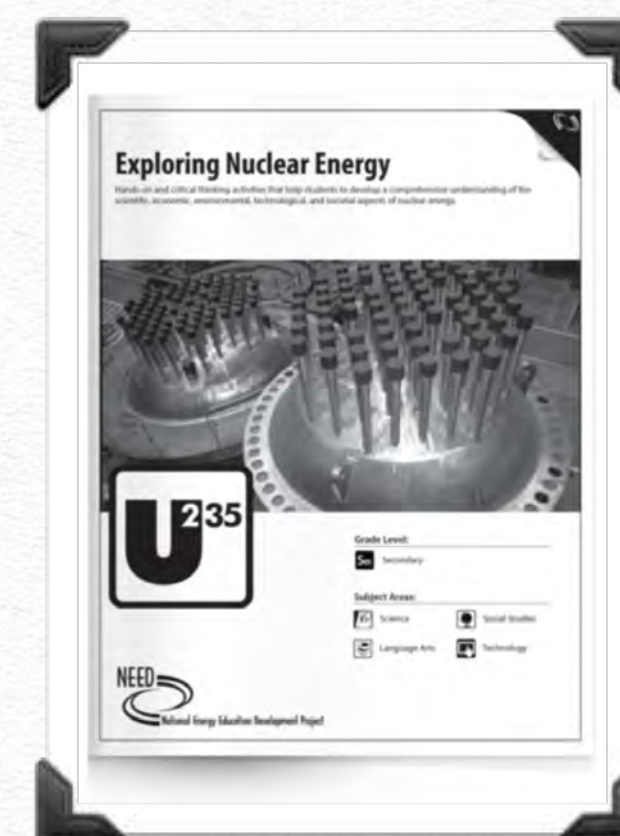
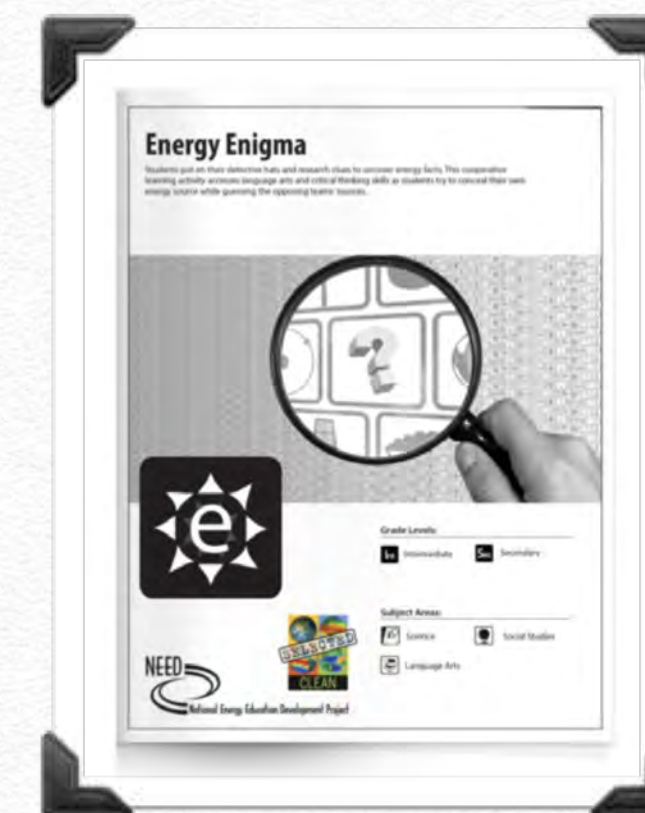
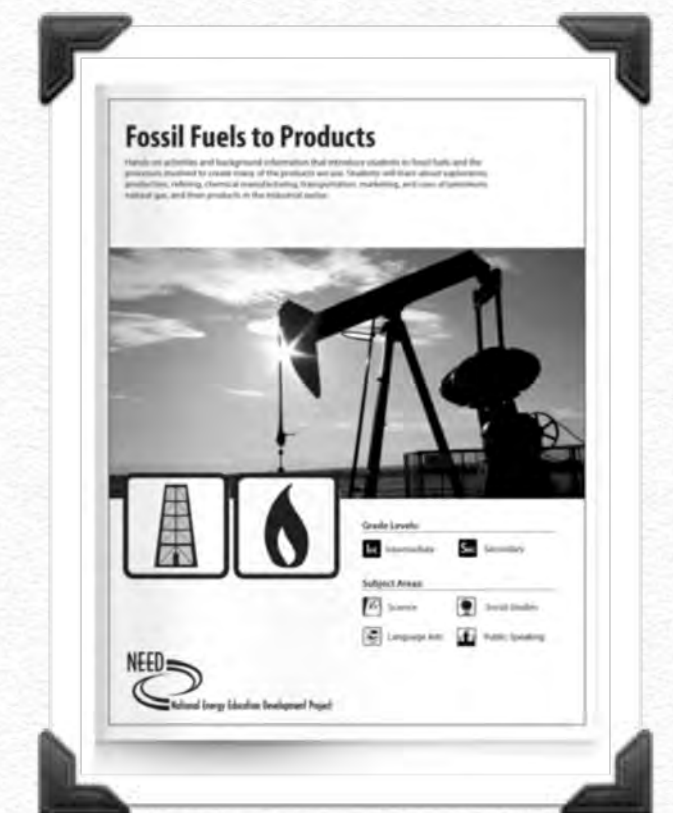
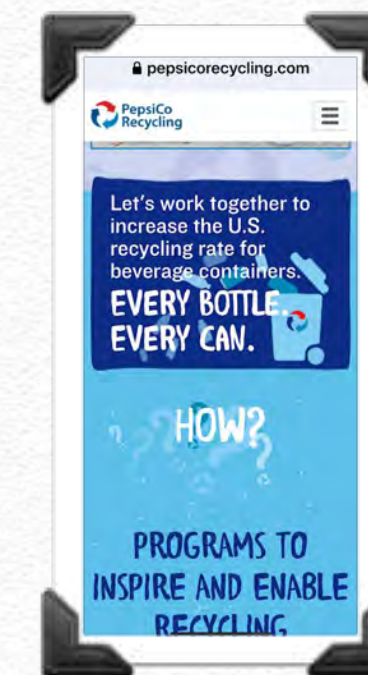
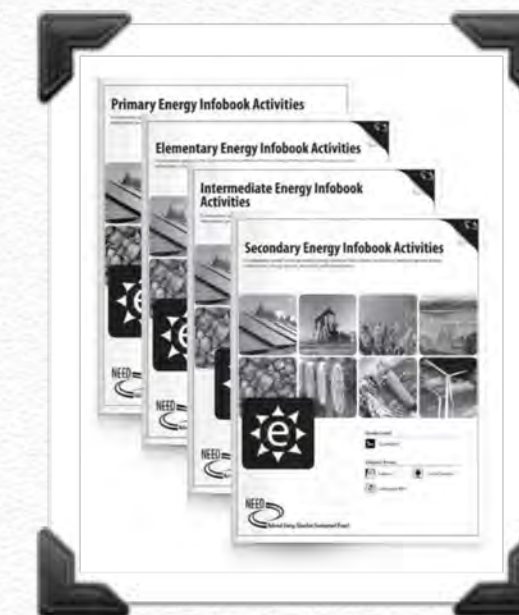


Activities



Energy Content

- ❖ NEED's Science of Energy, Fossil Fuels to Products, Exploring Oil and Gas, Secondary Energy Information Book, Exploring Climate Science, Energy Enigma, Exploring Nuclear Energy
- ❖ Energy Websites Linked to www.need.org
- ❖ Pamphlets and posters from Pepsico Recycle Rally, <https://pepsicorecycling.com>
- ❖ Information from the American Chemical society. Acs.or and speakers through their High School Chemistry Club
- ❖ PE3 book from Offshore Energy Center as well as the knowledge box and playing with petroleum box
- ❖ Energy4Me curriculum from the Society of Petroleum Engineers
- ❖ Agriculture Extension Agency
- ❖ Texas A&M
- ❖ Junior Master Gardener
- ❖ Kitchen Chick





Student Leadership



- ❖ 1 student was put in charge as liaison with the principal and faculty to contact if there were any questions about recycling or pick up or need to be picked up early (problems with food etc being put in the bins drawing bees etc)
- ❖ 4 students were assigned to making sure the bins were set up around the school in the high traffic areas
- ❖ 2 students were assigned to collect the plastic bottles and cans at least 2 times a week or whenever they the bins started to fill
- ❖ 1 student was assigned to collect the recycled paper and deliver it to the recycling facility and the newspapers to the galveston county humane society to be used for the animals
- ❖ 2 students were assigned to gather the plastic bottles and take to the plastic recycling and to collect the aluminum cans and take them to the can recycling facility.
- ❖ 3 students were assigned to printing , laminating, creating, drawing signs to put around the school and recycle bins, to promote recycling
- ❖ 6 students put together the entry way display
- ❖ 10 students volunteered and worked shifts at the tables during the open houses
- ❖ 2 students were put in charge of communication with the Galveston's Own Farmer's Market to coordinate the booths and days we would give demonstrations
- ❖ 2 students were put in charge of recycling collect at the Farmer's Market and taking it to the appropriate recycling facilities
- ❖ 2 students were in charge of coordinating each of the events in the community, (mardi gras, dickens, iron man, Lone star bike rally etc.)
- ❖ 4 students were put in charge of the cooking classes
- ❖ 2 students were in charge of the garden during holiday and off times





Evaluation

- ❖ We evaluated our outcome by keeping track of the amount of recycling and also doing spot checks of classroom and various cans around campus to see how many possibly recyclable items were being put into the regular trash
- ❖ Students made a questionnaire that was sent to students and faculty and staff which showed the majority of the people on campus were invested in recycling on our campus
- ❖ Students created a questionnaire on the Farmer's Market Facebook page to receive feedback from the community on the opportunity to have their recycling collected at the Farmer's Market and the reaction to the science behind recycling presentations at the booth at the Farmer's Market
- ❖ Students made questionnaires that were filled out at the end of the cooking classes to evaluate the information learned and also to determine any changes that should be made to future classes.

Hours Spent Working on Projects

Approximately 1300 hours collectively (Covid-19 cut into our time)
Recycling at School and Galveston's Own Farmer's Market
Research and working in the Garden and preparation of food and cooking classes

Student Coordinators

16 Student Coordinators this year , 4 from each class.

