

St. Margaret Catholic School:
Louisiana
Pro Terra Nova: For a Good
Earth
Sponsor: Judy Reeves



Summary

St. Margaret Science Club started the year strong with our team collecting recycling every Monday morning. Once we began, we realized we had a problem: our elementary classes were not recycling. At that moment, we set our goal to teach the elementary students about recycling and how to recycle at our New School since they were in temporary buildings for the last four years. Our science club made posters showing how, where, and when to recycle. Teams of three science club members went to every classroom to teach the students how it helps our earth.

Community Outreach was also an important goal for us. We joined with Cameron, our neighboring parish, to better understand the energy of the Gulf and coastal restoration, and participated in two major events to help save the coast by planting grass (*bitter panicum*) on Rockefeller Beach with Louisiana Wildlife and Fisheries and *Coalition to Restore Coastal Louisiana*. We also participated in “Keep Louisiana Beautiful” and cleaned Rutherford Beach. A local event we engaged in was “Love the Boot,” a statewide program, where we conducted our own school recycling drive and area cleanup, where we collected data and recorded the information on a state site. In support of our church parish, we collected recycling, handed out city recycling flyers, and arranged Pepsico recycling bins at our CalCaChew Food Festival in September.

We really met our goals on Community Outreach for the 2024-2025 school year.

GOAL # 1 To teach students at St. Margaret Catholic School (Pre-K-8th grade) how to recycle using our recycle center; to get parents involved in our city recycling program; and to encourage our community and church parish to recycle.

ACTIVITIES AND TASKS :

1. Obtained permission from Principal Wendy Wicke to conduct the following activity.
2. Hosted Recycling at the community festival (Calcachew).
3. Arranged with city recycling center for weekly recycling pickup.
4. Updated Pepsico Recycling Rally Recording Site.
5. Talked to classes about recycling; introduced a lesson on what is biomass.
6. Handed-out city-flyer on recycling locations for April 9th and 10th Earth Day Event (Love the Boot).
7. Held a school wide contest on recycling plastic and aluminum on April 9th.

ENERGY CONTENT: NEED's Talking Trash, Info book on biomass, www.need.org website, City of Lake Charles Recycling, and talks from Mr. Eric (our janitor) and Mrs. Judy Reeves (science teacher)

STUDENT LEADERSHIP: Our **Leaders** are Morgan and Zach. The **Elementary Classroom Team** is Ellie, Abba, and Shelby. The **Jr High Classroom Team** is Cullen, Dwight, and Demoiné. Zach leads the **Church Office and Cafeteria**.

SUMMARY: Created recycling Leader Groups from 7th and 8th grade students made of 3-4 students the teams recycling paper and plastic bin audit of each classroom, scheduled for Monday at 7:00am as recycle day, they made posters with procedures and hung in the hallways after teaching the teachers Earth week the recycle team will hand out city flyers from 7:10-8:00 April 9, 2025 a school wide recycling drop off Contest for Elementary and Junior High students.

EVALUATION: There was 100% class participation (23 classes), and total plastic and aluminum collected during the 2024-2025 school year was incredible: total weight was 5000lbs and estimated containers collected was 46,038 (plastic and aluminum), all recorded on the Pepsico recycling site. We donated desk bins for 8 staff members in the school office and an outdoor 50 gallon bin for dumping paper. We participated in *Love the Boot* program contest. At Calcachew, we handed out 100 recycling flyers and gave away 25 bins.

Recycling on Monday mornings at 7:10 am

#23 Classes

#350 Students

#8 Office Staff

Each class has

1 green bin and 1 blue bin

Total bins on campus=
62 bins



Total recycled in the
2024-2025 School year:
.Weight: 5000 lbs
Est. Total Containers: 46,038
(Plastic and aluminum)

We record Data on Pepsico Recycling website.
We have 59,668 items recycled.

Teaching Recycling to Elementary Grades

We love to
recycle!

Recycling is
great for the
environment!



We made 20
Posters for
each hallway,
Cafeteria, and
Church/
School Offices

We visited over
20 classes and
the church
office (10 staff)
teaching about
recycling.



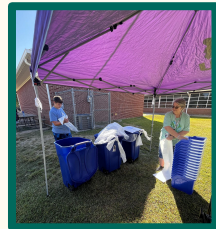
CalCaChew Community Festival Recycling

Free Recycling bins and flyers to teach about local recycling.

Good Day
to Recycle!



Working as a team
while caring for the
planet!



Data

25 Recycling Containers given away!
100 Recycling flyers handed out!
60 gallons of recycling collected!

Recycle Rally: Love The Boot Week April 5-18th

LOVE
THE BOOT
week
KEEP LOUISIANA BEAUTIFUL



Way to go
SMCS
everyone
brought loads of
plastic and
aluminum



St Margaret Catholic School Recycle Rally: And the winner of the Elementary is Kindergarten with 245 gallons of recycling ♻️

Junior High the winner 🏆 is 6th grade with 1000 gallons go Ryder !!! He brought so much recycling..

Students handed out 200 city recycling flyers and 400 recycling stickers

We collected recycling from elementary families : 747 gallons and jr high families 2356 gallons

**Totalling 3103 gallons collected from St Margaret Catholic School !
Reaching our Goal of Recycling communication.**

Love the Boot Clean-up: Participants 6th-8th grade



For Love the Boot, Our SMCS Science Club hosted a school wide cleanup along 17th Street between Kirkman and Enterprise Blvd. Including the area around the school parking lot and the playground Love the Boot helps make Louisiana less polluted and have a better environment. We collected 6/ 55 gallons of trash and 3/ 13 gallons of recyclables April 9th ... Goal to Participate in a statewide program documenting our successful clean up.



GOAL #2: To have students at St. Margaret Catholic School participate in Energy Related programs throughout the year incorporating different school clubs.

ACTIVITIES AND TASKS

1. Our club officer Morgan obtained permission from Principal Wendy Wicke to conduct the activity.
2. The 7th grade went to the yearly Energy Expo at the Event Center in Lake Charles.
3. The 6th grade STEM Class read a book and made Chameleons bringing awareness on sun damage to skin.
4. The 6th grade completed Energy Works Energy activities.

ENERGY CONTENT AND RESOURCES:

1. NEED's Energy Works
2. Chameleon activity,
3. Energy companies websites linked to www.NEED.org
4. Science Buddies Engineering
5. Energy websites linked to www.NEED.org STUDENT

STUDENT LEADERSHIP: At the 7th grade event, the **leaders** were Ellie, Ablah, Adele, Shelby, and Kutter. At the STEM Activities, 6th grade students made up the **group leaders**.

EVALUATION: Completed activity with Chameleons and identification of usage for chameleons in the real world (22 students) and redesigned the chameleon to be able to make in 10 min vs two class periods. The 21 7th graders attended the STEM Energy Event. 22 8th grade students used solar information for Science Fair project and made it to State Science Fair.

7th grade Energy in Louisiana Expo



Acid!!! Ohh PH .. Wow this is so cool changes color to show acidity.

WE LOVE
BUBBLES!

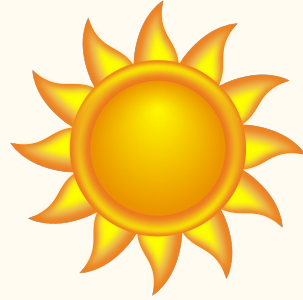


Polymers are so cool



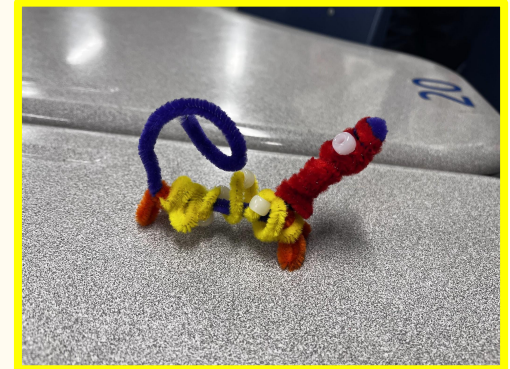
300 7th graders from Calcasieu, Cameron, and Allen Parishes attended the 2024 Energy Expo. held by the Lake Area Industry Alliance.

Fun in the Sun: 6th Grade Solar Chameleons



Project Criteria:

- Under \$5.00
- Fit in the palm of your hand
- Quick to make
- Redesign had to take place as original design took over an hour to complete.
- Second design took 10 minutes



GOAL #3: To identify the energy from the Gulf of Mexico and its effects on our coastline of Louisiana.

ACTIVITIES AND TASKS:

1. Speaker on Louisiana Coastlines informed students on the habitat of the Louisiana Coast line. 7th and 8th grade students planted *bitter panicum* which grows on coastal dunes, in interdunal swales, overwash sands, wet sandy soils, low fertility soils, and the margins of swamps, in a great habitat for sea birds, preventing coastal erosion.
2. How to prevent coastal erosion: students participated in <https://www.crcl.org/> Coalition to Restore Coastal Louisiana.
3. How to reduce ocean pollution: students participated in Cameron Parish Coastal Recycling programs.

ENERGY AND RESOURCES: Hydropower NEED; Exploring Ocean Energy and its resources NEED; Coalition to Restore Coastal Louisiana; Keep Louisiana Beautiful

LEADERSHIP: Our 8th grade **leaders** were Emily and Cydnee. The **group leaders** were Vega Hayes, Ava Moton, Audrey Viney, Maria LaFleur , Owen Pousson, and Cash Monroe.

EVALUATION: Students planted 10,000 plugs of *bitter panicum* to prevent the coastline of the Gulf of Mexico from coastal erosion; students in September collected 25 and 50 gallon bags of trash and debris over a 5 mile stretch of beach along the Cameron Parish coastline preventing water pollution. We had several Professors from LSU and Department of Wildlife and fisheries teach about *bitter panicum* and native wildlife and how planting grass and cleaning the beach would heal our environment.

Rutherford Beach Cameron Parish



Data

404 Recyclable Items
(not including strange and
unusual items). Collected
six 30 gallon trash bags



This is
SO big!



TRASH COLLECTED	
Item	Quantity
Aluminum	1
Cardboard	1
Plastic	1
Styrofoam	1
Other	1
Total	5

TRASH COLLECTED	
Item	Quantity
Aluminum	1
Cardboard	1
Plastic	1
Styrofoam	1
Other	1
Total	5



Save the Coast and Rockefeller Refuge

In **Save the Coast**, we planted *bitter panicum* grass along the gulf. We planted about 1000 plugs of grass. In total, we went a little over a mile to plant grass.



We launched boats from East End Boat Launch in Grand Chenier, LA.

Rockefeller Refuge Research Laboratory

After we grass planted, we went to go see the alligators at the new Rockefeller Refuge Research Laboratory. We were the first outside viewers of the lab.



Look what
just
hatched!!

