



By: Kylie D.

By: Jacob P. Do you know why the Green Team is here at West School? They are here to talk about and show ways to keep our Earth healthy and clean! The Green Team is a club that meets on some Monday mornings. An example of one fun activity that happens during the first week of the Green Team is ...plant! So far, the Green Team has planted the prairie plants at the front of West School. Why did we need to plant new plants? Dr. Rongey asked the Green Team to add to our natural prairie garden that we study in third grade. We planted prairie plants, like Big Bluestem, Sedge, Coneflower and Butterfly Bush. It's good to plant these native plants to help the bees and butterflies. Check them out in front of West School by the benches. Other activities the Green Team have done so far this year, is collecting plastic bags to keep them out of landfills, recycling batteries, and helping to recycle and compost in the lunchroom. We also made reusable trick or treat bags for Halloween.



I hope you learned some facts about what the Green Team is doing at West School.

In October, the fourth grade classes got to go on a field trip to Waste Management Recycling Center in Grayslake. The recycling center is a place where our garbage and recycling goes after it is picked up at our houses. The center employs about 100 people. They work on different assembly lines and separate the things we put in our recycle bins. We watched a video about "Mr. Cool Can". He told us how the recycling center worked. They use all kinds of machines to separate the materials. First, the paper is sorted out. It goes in a separate bin. It is bundled and sent to companies that make new paper. Next, the glass goes on another belt, and is separated by color. It's bundled up and sent to a company that melts it into new bottles and jars. The plastic is also separated and can be melted and made into new containers. Metal is pulled out by giant magnets and put into a steel bin. A big reverse magnet separates them. The metal is sent to local companies to be melted and reused. Aluminum cans can go from the store to be recycled into new cans in 60 days! You should never put garbage or plastic bags in your recycle bin. The plastic bags get caught in the machinery and cause a big problem! Plastic bags go to a special bag recycle center. Garbage goes to the dump or landfill. Finally, we got in the bus and drove to the landfill of garbage. The land was originally flat and now it's a big mountain of trash. It will close down in 2023 because so many people don't recycle and have too much garbage. They don't know where they will make a new landfill. If people recycle more, they will have more room and be able to stay open longer. Recycle everyday and help the recycling center and the earth!



All About Heller Nature Center

By: Jonathan M. Would you like to hear a super stinging story? In September, the third grade classes went on a field trip to Heller Nature Center to learn about bees. While visiting Heller Nature Center, we got to put on beekeeper suits to have a beekeeper experience. We learned how beekeepers get honey from bees by hanging out with them. We also saw an actual honeycomb filled with honey, larva and pupa. The classes also got to see how a bee sees by wearing glasses with many lenses and we talked about their lifecycle. We also talked about how important they are in our ecosystem. All the third graders got to take home a honey stick that the people of Heller Nature Center gave them.

