



The High School View

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What recycling really means

By Eva Faber

When faced with the tedious task of separating reusable wastes from trash, some people can't help but wonder, "Is all this recycling destined for a dumpster?" With recycling bins in nearly all of the high school's rooms, the effort to recycle has been widely successful since history teacher Olsen Houghton's leadership class took on the effort five years ago.

Each week, the class rounds up about a ton of recycling from the school. Cardboard, paper, aluminum, and glass and plastic bottles are placed in the school's recycling dumpster for pickup by ABC Disposal Service. But this is only the beginning of the story.

"Many are discouraged by the belief that all of our recyclables are thrown into a giant bin and mixed with the trash," said Mr. Houghton.

But according to Brian Smith, manager of the Martha's Vineyard ABC Disposal Service, this is not the case. Mr. Smith explained that all of the solid wastes and recy-

cling collected by the company are brought to the Martha's Vineyard Regional Refuse District in Edgartown before leaving the Island.

"Our cost to bring solid waste to their facility is roughly double what they charge us to drop off recycling. Therefore, you can see how foolish it would be for us to combine our solid waste and recycling," said Mr. Smith. "The reason that recycling is so much less expensive is that after sorting out the various materials at a facility off Island, they are sold to recyclers for a profit."

Thanks to a new technology called single-stream recycling, all recyclables, including cardboard, paper, newspaper, glass and plastic bottles, and even empty aerosol cans can now be combined into one container instead of being separated by customers.



PHOTO BY ELIAS WORTMANN

Junior Zackary Bernard participates in the school's recycling program by collecting used cardboard.

"From an environmental standpoint it didn't make much sense to send several separate trucks to each customer for their recycling," said Mr. Smith. In addition, customers were less likely to recycle because of the extra work it would take them. He said, "We've re-

duced solid waste by several thousand tons each year while at the same time we have reduced the number of trucks traveling our roads and burning fossil fuel."

The trucks bring the single-stream recyclables to the Martha's Vineyard Refuse District in Edgartown, which manages all of the Island's wastes. "Most of the recycling we receive during the off-season is recycled as mandated by the state," said Don Hatch, Manager of the Martha's Vineyard Refuse.

From the refuse, the recyclables are transported to a Casella recycling facility in Massachusetts, where mechanical sorting equipment separates the single-stream into individual materials. The raw materials are then sold to manufacturers for the production of new products.

The cost of ABC's recycling service is about \$90 per week, according to regional high school Building Director Greg Hines,

significantly less than the cost of trash pick-up. Recycling not only reduces the school's impact on the environment, but also puts some extra money back into the budget.

"It's great that everyone is eager to help out and recycle," said Mr. Houghton, "but until it becomes a mindset it's not the real thing. No matter how much we are doing, we can always do more. Instead of thinking about what can be recycled, people should rethink about buying reusable products and making garbage and recycling a last resort," he said.

"I believe that reduce and reuse are equally important as recycling," said Mr. Smith. "Just think of all the packaging thrown away on Christmas day or all the plastic water bottles tossed out every day and you can see how much the reduction in packaging or reuse of water containers could contribute to a cleaner environment."

Said leadership student and senior Ned Hehre, "I think everyone should just be more conscious of the things they are throwing away on a day-to-day basis and what simple changes they can make to their lifestyles to reduce their wastes."

Green opportunities sprout for students

By Marc Natichioni

On Friday, March 30, 10 presenters with green careers ranging from architects to farmers to wind turbine installers came from all over the Island to the culinary dining room to present to students the endless possibilities of green careers.

"I've always been passionate about the environment," said senior Andrew Randall, who plans on majoring in sustainable horticulture. "This was just another chance to learn all about my potential careers."

The goal of Green Careers Day was to show students how careers in sustainability can be enjoyable while still accomplishing great things for the preservation of the Earth. Many of the presenters shared their life sto-

ries with the students, explaining how their experiences led them to their certain careers. Founder and CEO of South



PHOTO BY EVA FABER

John Abrams, CEO of South Mountain Company, was one of 11 presenters to talk to students about environmentally friendly jobs in the culinary arts dining room last Friday.

Mountain Company, John Abrams, dropped out of college three times before realizing his passion for architecture, build-

ing, and renewable energy. On the other hand, "green" Architect Stephanie Mashek has known that she would be an architect since the age of four. Although they took different routes, all the presenters agree that if you do what you love, work won't feel like work.

"I never really considered a job in renewable energy," said senior Olivia Cimeno. "After this presentation I realized how many fields and options there are and how you can take your personal interests and help the environment and our future with what you love to do."

Students learned to follow whatever path interests them on the way to their future. "Don't chase money in jobs," said Ken

MacLean from Mashek MacLean Architects. "You need to be interested, otherwise you'll be bored out of your gourd by midlife."

Two win national art awards

By Ina Thigith

Sophomores Sadie Dix and Leah Fortes received national Scholastic Art & Writing Awards. Sadie earned a silver medal for her photo, "Flesh does not Define Me." Leah received a gold medal for her drawing, "Portrait in Black and White."

The award dates back to 1923 and is considered a great honor, shared by the likes of interna-

tionally acclaimed artists and writers such as Andy Warhol

and Sylvia Plath, according to the organization's website

Last year, approximately 185,000 students submitted pieces to the Scholastic Art & Writing Awards. Around 1,500 applicants received acknowledgement on a national platform, and of these, about 300 earned gold.

"Honestly, I was shocked when I won it," Sadie said of her photo. "I think it was the name I captioned it with that caught people's attention. Flesh does

not Define Me speaks out to controversial issues regarding social image and even race."

"Having someone win on a national level doesn't come around too often," photography teacher Chris Baer said of Sadie's accomplishment. "The news was very exciting and I know Sadie deserves it."

I was excited when I heard I won," Leah said about her drawing. "Art teacher Janice Frame

"I knew as soon as I saw the piece that it was the one."

was my inspiration and I think she was even more excited than I was."

"I knew from the moment I saw the piece that it was the one," said Ms. Frame. "She is very conscientious and is an inspiration to me the way things come to her naturally."

Following this achievement, a celebration of all nationally recognized students' works will take place in June at Carnegie Hall in New York. After the showcase, both of the students' winning works will be displayed around New York City.