



School Environmental Network Newsletter

Note from Marilyn Raymond - Chair of HA21's Education Group...

My apologies that this newsletter is coming out later in the term than I would have wished

Our Autumn term Meeting produced a number of ideas, particularly a return visit to Veolia— see below , plus the suggestion of another walk, this time to be held in the summer months..... Any suggestions as to where you would like to go?

It has been so pleasing to hear from some of you that you are moving ahead with allotments and growing areas. We are still supporting Welldon Park Infants in their allotment project (see page 2). Now having heard that we have lost our Council Grant we were surprised and delighted to have received a donation from the School.

HA21 Grant A new application has been put to Harrow Council and we are also looking for alternative sources of funding.

The Anne Swain Award of £500 still stands so do apply. Get in touch for further details. Or check out the web site.

My apologies that I have not managed to get round to see other Schools, medical reasons have still inhibited me but now my new year resolution is to do so. Please keep in touch so that we may try to support you.

As ever a request for people to join us. Our group flourishes but other school commitments frequently take precedence so numbers at meetings fluctuate - we do meet termly and for your convenience after school. There is a small core of dedicated members – come and join us. See below!

Our best wishes for the Spring Term

Check out our web site: www.harrowagenda21.org

Marilyn: 020 8954 3329 marilyn.raymond@tiscali.co.uk

0208 954 3329

Spring Event at Veolia Environment Centre Clay Lane, Bushey, Tuesday 13th March at 4.00–6.00 pm

A chance to return to the Environmental Centre to taste the brilliant variety of activities offered schools on their visits to the Centre or as outreach



It is essential that we have names, phone no's and car registrations before the visit as it is a secure site

Welldon Park Infant and Nursery School - School Allotment

We have had the allotment for two years now and with it many challenges. Our first hurdle was to create some sort of growing area within the grass covered plot we had been given. We enlisted the support of a small group of parents who helped with digging, turning, digging, turning and yet more digging. B & Q were kind enough to donate tools, a wheelbarrow and some fruit trees. The second hurdle we faced was poor drainage. Even when we arrived at Springtime our plot was a complete bog. With local support we were able to build raised beds using recycled scaffold boards which have so far solved the problem. We have recycled old tyres from a local garage to use as seating for when a whole class is up there, which means we can use the space as an outdoor classroom.



The allotment is coming together and all of the classes have been timetabled for weekly visits. The allotment is a wonderful opportunity to develop speaking and listening, social skills and emotional wellbeing for all of our pupils within many areas of the curriculum such as science, maths, geography and literacy. Working alongside others in the community is helping the children to develop a respect for property.

This year we hope to extend our raised beds and create a small wildlife area with the help of HA21. We are creating a large pumpkin patch so we can grow and sell pumpkins along with other vegetables to parents and staff in order to make the allotment more self-sufficient and promote the taste of home grown produce. Although we have used what we have grown in school for cooking lessons, it would be ideal if every class could use fruit and vegetables they have grown to create tasty snacks and meals. We hope to become better at composting food waste from school in order to



become more environmentally friendly and this is an ideal opportunity for our pupils to learn the importance of looking after our planet through recycling waste.

We have had many set backs on our journey but when you take your class up for a visit it all becomes worthwhile.



The opportunities to enrich the curriculum on the allotment are endless!

Jane Walsh (class teacher)



EDF Energy as a Partner of the Games
Helping schools to become more sustainable



The Pod

The Pod provides teachers with the resources and information they need to teach environmental issues and inspire students to run green activities in school, within the community and at home.

Select [resources](#) and you will find lesson plans, assemblies, information packs about environmental hot topics and much more. All of the free teachers' resources on the Pod are available once you [login](#) or [register](#) on the site.

- To see a sample of what is available before logging in or registering on the Pod, download the following lesson plans:
- [Sample lesson plan for 4-7](#)
- [Sample lesson plan for 7-11](#)
- [Sample lesson plan for 11-14](#)

Select [Curriculum guide](#) to find out how the Pod's activities and lesson plans can support teaching across the curricula for England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland.

Items that might be of interest –

- **What happens to our waste**— I am pleased to say that our 18 minute DVDs on Recycling in Harrow are circulating within the Borough from Primary to college level. I have two copies to loan out and we are able to produce more if there is a demand, just ask.
- **Bentley Priory Open Space** with 'special scientific interest' status, a precious Green Belt site is applying for lottery funding to help with preserving its layout and to make it more user friendly for schools. We arranged a walk over the area in 2009 and hope to do so again soon in warmer and more friendly weather
- **Earth Charter Initiative and Eco-Schools** started a new partnership: The Foundation for Environmental Education (FEE), through its Eco-Schools programme and signed an agreement of cooperation with the Earth Charter International
- **Bentley Old Vicarage Nature Reserve:** Rev James Mercer of All Saints Church, Harrow Weald. plans a 'Forest School' site within the reserve which is under their jurisdiction. This would be of great advantage to particular groups of pupils. The John Lyon trust has been approached for funding and we have offered support.
- **Oak Processionary Moth –** John Hollingdale from Greener harrow has put out a warning about this moth which has been seen in other boroughs near by. It can cause skin rashes and breathing difficulties. I have more information.



Diary dates

16-30th January

Big School Bird Watch
www.rspb.org.uk/schoolswatch

February

2nd World Wetland day
www.the-ba.net

14-21 National Nest Box Week

www.bto.org/nnbw

March

National Veggie Month:

Celebrate the benefits of vegetables
www.vegsoc.org

3 World Book Day

www.worldbookday.com

9-18 National Science & Engineering Wk

'Science: Explores our 'World in Motion'
www.britishtscienceassociation.org/web/nsew

22 World Water Day

www.worldwaterday.org

23 World Meteorological Day

www.wmo.int

April

National Pet Month

www.nationalpetmonth.org.uk

16– 22 National gardening Week

Investigate RHS web site

7 World Health Day: Marks the founding of the WHO

www.who.int



[Free Potato Growing Kit For Schools](#)

Grow Your Own Potatoes - A project that teaches primary aged children about potatoes. Children learn how potatoes grow and how they fit in to a healthy balanced diet.

All you have to do is register your school to receive a FREE potato growing kit:

- Instruction leaflet - Leaflet.pdf
- Interactive classroom weather poster with stickers - Poster.pdf
- 2 x hado grow bags
- 3 Rocket seed potatoes
- 3 Vales Emerald seed potatoes
- Rain catcher instructions including water spout - rain-catcher.pdf
- Letter to Parent/Guardian - Parent/Guardian letter.pdf

Friday 3rd February – deadline for registering for 2012

Complete the registration form so your school receives its free growing kit in March 2012.

<http://gyop.potato.org.uk/>



News from Harrow Arts Centre



This term Harrow Arts Centre are working with St Joseph's Catholic Primary School on an exciting new project commissioned by the Harrow Council Transport Team. Children from the school are going to work with artist Alistair Lambert to spruce up the nearby subway on the Belmont Trail, inspired by the local ecosystem and the people that use the trail path, and hope to encourage more people to use it for leisure and to walk to school. The work will be completed by the start of the summer term, so we will let you know about the launch!

Cate Gordon

Participation Programmer

Harrow Arts Centre

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The Belmont railway line was closed in 1964. After closing, the line became a useful informal walking route along the disused railway track. Over recent years, there has been a lot of fly tipping in the area and the overgrown shrubs have been left unattended for too long. It is hoped that the entire route will become cycle friendly and more attractive to local walkers.

http://www.harrow.gov.uk/info/200102/walking_and_cycling/1724/the_belmont_trail/1