

A “Greener” Lunch

Alta Vista Elementary (K-5)

815 Knob Ave, Redondo Beach, CA 90277 • 310/798-8650 • <http://altavista.rbusd.org>

Did you know that every day at Alta Vista Elementary School, 18 to 20 bags of trash are produced, just at lunchtime? Recently, with the help of parents, students, and the community, Alta Vista has decided to become a Grades of Green School. Thanks to a grant from an international media company, Grades of Green, non-profit organization, is offering support to our school through a series of environmental education activities that put into motion initiatives to help us reduce the amount of waste we produce as a school.

Starting with a school-wide assembly, Grades of Green taught students, teachers, staff, and custodians about the three Rs: reduce; reuse; and recycle. We also learned the importance of trash reduction to the environment and our community. The assembly helped students understand the important link between trash reduction and the conservation of our natural resources. During the assembly, our school learned how to implement the second initiative, Trash-Free Tuesdays. Trash-Free Tuesdays utilize an expanded sorting system to promote recycling, composting, and waste reduction. Every Tuesday, our students aim to bring completely Trash-Free lunches, promoting the use of reusable containers and lunchboxes. Our lunchtime monitors even circulate the lunch area with “trashy trivia” to reinforce positive recycling habits and rewards for proper sorting. Our third initiative for this year is the introduction of a composting system for lunchtime fruits and vegetables which not only reduces our trash production but helps to nurture and fertilize our garden.

At Alta Vista, we are excited about the small steps we are making towards protecting our community and the environment and look forward to more initiatives to fold in next school year. For more information or ways to donate to recycling programs, check out the Grades of Green Web site at www.gradesofgreen.org.

A Green Way of Life

Jefferson Elementary (K-6)

600 Harkness Lane, Redondo Beach, CA 90278 • 310/798-8631 • <http://jefferson.rbusd.org>

Jefferson has shifted into a “green culture,” embracing the fact that environmental responsibility is all of our responsibility to ensure a bright future for our children. As a school, we are doing everything to reduce our waste, spending and carbon imprint.

Driven by environmental and economic concerns, we first started by “taking back the backpack” for academic use and posting newsletters and messages online. Each year, we reevaluate to improve our awareness and efficiency. Energy conservation and environmental awareness on campus are routine. Staff participates nightly in conservation practices and complete “shutdown” procedures during breaks in addition to monthly Know Energy Days as a specific conservation focus.

Jefferson provides a variety of forums to involve all stakeholders in daily green operations. For example, Beach Cities Health District supports Jefferson through LiveWell Kids in physical health and nutrition through morning exercises, a PE specialist and our school gardens. Our school’s Green Committee (GC) is key to the implementation of focal activities and events. The GC runs a campuswide recycling program in partnership with ReProCycle in addition to Trash-Free Tuesday lunches, Walk-to-School Wednesdays, Beach Community

Cleanup days, Earth Week celebrations, recycle drives, compost preparation and reclaimed watering of campus plants. The GC additionally trains our fourth-grade Student Green Ambassadors to reinforce each program.

Our programs ensure the involvement of parents as a strong support system to our green culture. Students are taught to make a difference through recycling, reusing and reducing to conserving resources for a better tomorrow.



Jefferson School is proud to be a finalist in the Grades of Green Challenge.

Grades of Green

Madison Elementary (K-5)

2200 MacKay Lane, Redondo Beach, CA 90278 • 310/798-8623 • <http://madison.rbusd.org>

Madison has partnered with a prominent local movie studio to bring the “Grades of Green” recycling program to Redondo Beach. Currently, both Madison and Alta Vista Elementary Schools are working closely with Grades of Green, a nonprofit environmental organization, to educate students on what they can do to reduce, reuse and recycle.

Both schools conducted an eco-audit recently to look for ways to minimize waste and compost any leftover food. In fact, Madison took the results from the eco-audit and cut its daily trash bags down from 10 bags to two, which is a whopping 40 fewer trash bags per week! Furthermore, students are encouraged to participate in the “Trash Free Tuesdays” program, which seeks to drastically cut down on the amount of lunch trash produced by plastic baggies and disposable containers. Students are instead asked to bring reusable items such as water bottles, metal utensils and trash-free lunch boxes. Students who produce “zero waste” on Tuesdays are then entered into a raffle for a “green” lunchbox. Students are also recycling their fruits and veggies in a compost bin, and the composted material is eventually used as soil for the school garden.

Madison is truly growing greener day by day.



Mr. Ledoux speaking at the Grades of Green Assembly



Madison students recycling their lunch waste.