

# SANTA MONICA Mirror

## Roosevelt Elementary School To Rally To Reduce Waste This Friday

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MIRROR STAFF

For the first time in Santa Monica-Malibu Unified School District history, students at Roosevelt Elementary School are up to the challenge to reduce their lunchtime waste. They're kicking off their participation in Grades of Green's Trash-Free Lunch Challenge this Friday, now in its fourth year, with a "Prep Rally" to motivate and inspire students to make a positive impact on their environment.

Sponsored by environmental education nonprofit Grades of Green in partnership with the City of Santa Monica, LAcarGUY and more, the competition pits 24 Southern California schools against one another to see which is most successful at diverting waste from landfills.

Over the last three years, participating schools have diverted 71,000 bags of trash from landfills and saved thousands of dollars in waste hauler pick-up costs; last year's winner reduced lunchtime waste by 93 percent.

During the challenge, students and staff will be encouraged to use re-useable water bottles, utensils and cloth napkins, and taught how to recycle, sort waste and compost. Lunchtime waste at Roosevelt currently amounts to nine trash bags.

The winner of the competition will be awarded a \$1,000 education grant on Earth Day.

John Adams Middle School and Lincoln Middle School will also be working with Grades of Green this year to increase student's environmental awareness and reduce lunch waste through recycling.

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