

Daily Breeze

South Bay elementary schools finalists in L.A. County's Trash-Free Lunch Challenge

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Posted: 03/31/2013 03:42:12 PM PDT

Updated: 03/31/2013 03:43:42 PM PDT

Three South Bay elementary schools - Lunada Bay in Palos Verdes Estates, Riviera in Torrance and Washington in Redondo Beach - have been named finalists in Los Angeles County's second annual Trash-Free Lunch Challenge.

The contest, created by environmental nonprofit Grades of Green and sponsored by the Sanitation Districts of Los Angeles County, teaches kids to reduce trash by using reusable lunch containers and by sorting compostable and recyclable materials. The three finalists - which cut their trash destined for landfills by nearly 90 percent on average - were selected from a group of 17 entrants countywide.

On April 16, a judging panel of five environmental experts will visit the three schools to select the winner. That school will be honored with a celebration on Earth Day on April 22. All finalists will receive education grants from Chevron: \$1,000 for the winner, and \$750 for each of the others. Additional sponsors include LAcarGuy and the Johnson Ohana Charitable Foundation.

Even though this year's Trash-Free Lunch Challenge is nearly complete, any school may initiate Grades of Green's Trash-Free Lunch program, as well as more than 40 other environmental activities, at any time. Instructions are available at no cost at gradesofgreen.org.