**Can Your Holiday Parties Help Save the Planet?**

A group of dolls

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More kids and parents are going “green” this holiday season.

Are you ready to join the cause?

**Did You Know…** Holiday waste is a huge problem. Did you know that the amount of trash we throw away during the holidays increases by 25% compared to the rest of the year? This leads to an extra 1 million tons of garbage in our landfills every week or 25 million tons in total.

**We are asking for your help so that our school can become a part of the solution.** When making gifts and meals for your family, please be eco-friendly. This means that everything they bring can either be eaten, reused, or recycled. It’s so simple:

* + **Step 1:** Start with planning your meals ahead of time to avoid overcooking.
  + **Step 2:** Bring your own shopping bags when buying your ingredients from your local farmers market.
  + **Step 3:** Purchase gifts that give back to a charitable cause.
  + **Step 4:** Switch to LED holiday decorations or have your child(ren) make their own.
  + **Step 5:** Provide reusable or compostable utensils ,plates, cups, and napkins during your celebration.
  + **Step 6:** Encourage your friends and family to recycle and bring their own reusable containers for taking home leftovers

By taking these steps to change your holiday habits, you will help us protect the Earth and save money that would have been wasted.

**Reuse What You Have!**

To continue your Green Holiday, freeze your leftovers or cook something new! Recycle any broken lights, old holiday decorations, paper waste, and cardboard boxes. Then, organize your decorations and wrapping materials so that you can re-use them again next year! Lastly, talk with your child(ren) about donating old toys, electronics, food, and clothes to those in need.