5/9/13
Bourne
Enterprise

Who Are The K-Kids?

By THE BOURNE RECYCLING COMMITTEE

K-Kids is the largest service organization for elementary age kids, with 42,000 members worldwide in 14 countries. They are sponsored by a local Kiwanis Club and meetings can be held in schools or other places, such as churches. Some goals are to develop leadership and business skills and do a service project.

The kids, themselves, run the club with an elected board of directors. In Bourne two teachers serve as advisers along with parent volunteers. The kids suggest topics and activities they would like to pursue and then vote on several. One group selected The Green Team, which is a statewide program offering environmental information and materials via the Internet.

Heather DiPaolo, a member of the Bourne Recycling Committee who is spearheading recycling in the schools, is working with this group which comprises 20 children from both the Bournedale and Peebles elementary schools. They meet once a month after school. There was a competition among four classrooms to recycle the most paper. Over Christmas vacation, the K-Kids, using Green Team forms, tracked household waste in their families to see if they could reduce trash and increase recycling over that month. The results were good.

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One highlight enjoyed by these K-kids and their parents was a tour of the Residential Recycling Center led by Phil Goddard, manager of Facility Compliance and Technology Development at ISWM. In April the K-Kids gave presentations to the 3rd and 4th graders in the two schools to share what they had learned, see the Crying Indian video (google: Crying Indian TV commercial), announce the winner of the paper collection contest, and give out pencils made of rolled-up newspaper and pens containing real shredded money.

Ms. DiPaolo and Jimmy Boyle had earlier given an overview of recycling to the 1st through 4th graders at Bournedale and Peebles. Mr. Boyle was in charge of recycling at ISWM prior to his current position with DPW. He has been giving presentations to the elementary classes for years. At the invitation of a 5th grade teacher, Ms. DiPaolo, Mr. Boyle and Mr. Goddard addressed the topics children had been studying: nonrenewable and renewable energy forms, the recycling process, what can or cannot be recycled, and how electricity can be produced from food waste. In addition, Mr. Goddard mentioned the hope to lease land to a company that provides green energy from food using an anaerobic digester and the possibility of single-stream recycling. Bourne is lucky to have these people who make recycling and environmental issues challenging and exciting to our children.