



THE **LITTLE**
ENVIRONMENTALISTS
LLC

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NEWSLETTER

Winter 2009

Volume 1, Issue 5,

Welcome to the Winter Edition of our Quarterly Newsletter!

Written by Rebecca Mattano



Happy Holidays from Our Family to Yours!

We are celebrating our one year anniversary for our newsletter and we want to hear from you!

After one year of writing our seasonal newsletter we want to make sure that you are getting what you need from our company. Please let us know how we can improve our newsletter for you!

What's New?



Follow us on Twitter and Facebook

Get all the latest updates from The Little Environmentalists by following LittleEnviro on Twitter and becoming a fan on Facebook. This is just another way that we can connect with all of you and share!



New Program Offered to Local Schools

We are excited to expand our popular community outreach programs to include water quality. Currently we spend a lot of time with college students at Carroll University teaching about water quality and testing local waterways it seemed important to extend this into The Little Environmentalists. This spring we will kick off our new water quality school programs at Eagleville Elementary School in Mukwonago, WI. The Nature Discovery and Go Green Programs have focused on preschool-3rd grades and these new programs will be available for all levels but we will focus on 4-6th grade.

As this new program develops we will also be creating another publication about water quality and conservation. We will keep you posted as to our progress and we are hoping to offer a free online publication for everyone to use at home and in the classroom for water quality fun!

In the Works

We are planning to launch the following in 2010:

- Nature Discovery Lesson Plan
- Nature Discovery Bingo
- Go Green With Me Lesson Plan
- Water Quality Program and Lesson Plan

Some other aspirations we have for 2010:

- Create and print larger, hard-cover, collector's edition copies of Nature Discovery In My Backyard and Go Green With Me

WINTER ACTIVITIES

Discovering Snow



Learn about the properties of snow. Get a jar and weight it, then go outside and fill your jar with snow. Now discuss the properties of snow:

- What makes up snow? How long will it take for the snow to melt?
- Will it weigh more when it melts? The snow should weigh the same when melted.
- Will the jar still be full when the snow melts and why? The water level of melted snow will be less than snow because of the volume of air spaces between the snow crystals.

All of these are great questions to get little minds thinking!

Additional ways you can explore snow:

- Try the same experiment above after a different snowfall and observe any differences.
- Test the melted snow for purity. Get two coffee filters, put a handful of snow in one filter and let it melt out into a container then examine the difference in the two filters and discuss differences and reasons!
- Test the pH of the melted and compare with your tap water or distilled water. Now discuss the differences and what that means to local ecosystems (especially aquatic systems).



Our green tip of the month is sweet and simple: buy/use recycled wrapping paper and recycle. Christmas is a time of year where there is so much excess waste but it just does not have to be. Here are some ideas and tips for a lighter load of waste this holiday season.

- Use your children's artwork from the past year to wrap gifts. Throughout the year you are sure to collect a great deal of wonderful art work and now you can use it to create a very special gift wrap that can still be recycled.
- Use newspaper as your gift wrap and allow your children to decorate each present with stamps, crayons, paper snowflakes, or any other holiday decorations that were created.
- Use gift bags that can be reused or recycled.

Do you have a good idea? We want to hear from you. Post a message for us on Facebook or send an email to thelittleenvironmentalists@yahoo.com

ECO-FRIENDLY PRODUCT PICK

For this holiday season we have decided that instead of picking one product we will challenge each of you to buy one eco-friendly product for someone on your list. What to look for:

- FSC Certified. (Forest Stewardship Council)
- Biodegradable
- Green Seal
- Ecoscene Approved
- Fair Trade Certified (social justice)
- Recycled packaging. Buy products that use PCW (post-consumer waste) for packaging.
- Buy products made from recycled materials (clothes, plastics, art, glass, etc...)
- Sustainable products that are manufactured using sustainable practices.
- Recyclable

There are many eco-friendly products available to us although most of us just are not paying attention to the products we buy. We are not looking at the packaging or researching the companies but as consumers we have the power and responsibility to change the market.



WINTER ACTIVITIES

Snowflake Snapshots

Prove to your child that no two snowflakes are alike! This activity requires more materials and can only be done when it is snowing but it worth the outcome! Materials needed: shoebox, Krylon plastic spray, acetate sheets (cut to fit inside the shoebox), cardboard and cloth pins (pin the acetate sheet to the cardboard).

You need to do this quickly in the following order: pin the sheet to the cardboard and spray the sheet with the Krylon, hand it to the child and have them hold onto the cloth pins so they do not touch the paper, now have them hold the sheet out as snowflakes are falling. Once they have collected a variety of snowflakes on their sheet have them put it in the shoebox (with the flakes up) and leave the box in the cold for 1 hour. After the time is up the snowflakes will have melted, the Krylon will dry and all that will be left is the impression of the snowflake that landed on your paper. Lastly, get out a magnifying glass and examine each snowflake!



COUPON

Buy one book at
7.95 and get one
free now through
March 2010!

Coupon Code: BIG1

CELEBRATE THE SEASONS

Winter Solstice

What is the December (winter) Solstice? December 21 marks the official beginning of winter in the northern hemisphere. There is a winter and a summer solstice. On the December solstice the direct rays of the sun are striking on the Tropic of Capricorn in the southern hemisphere and all latitudes at 66.5 degrees and south experience 24 hours of daylight and all latitudes 66.5 degrees and north experience 24 hours of darkness. As each day passes the earth keeps moving (revolving) around the sun along the plane of the ecliptic and slowly the seasons change. So why do we have different seasons? Two reasons; first because the earth is tilted at 23.5 degrees (as you can see from the illustrations) and because the earth revolves around the sun giving more solar insolation to different latitudes depending on where the earth is during its 365 day revolution around the sun! Just some information to get you started learning a little more about the seasons!

