



# B-CC BANTER

BETHESDA-CHEVY CHASE HIGH SCHOOL PTSA NEWSLETTER

## ACADEMIC NEWS B-CC STUDENTS AND STAFF COLLABORATE TO INCREASE SCHOOL RECYCLING

By Jean Diehl

In an effort to increase the amount of school trash recycled each day, B-CC has teamed up with GreenKids, a program sponsored by the Audubon Naturalist Society in partnership with MCPS. Jennifer Chambers, a GreenKids Environmental Education Specialist, has worked B-CC students and staff last year and this year to facilitate in-school and extracurricular activities to increase environmental awareness and rates of recycling at the school.

MCPS calculates B-CC's recycling rate by comparing the total weight of paper and comingled materials collected for recycling to the total weight of all of the school's trash during the year, Ms. Chambers said. These weights are measured using truck scale weights before and after trash and recycling collections. During the 2009-10 school year, she said, B-CC recycled 20.7 percent of its trash, the second-lowest rate of recycling among MCPS high schools.

After GreenKids meetings with staff and students last September, B-CC set a goal to recycle 36 percent of its trash during the 2010-2011 year. Ms. Chambers said students have facilitated this effort in numerous ways, led by the SGA and the Green School Team, a club sponsored by Ms. Wheatley and Mr. Hernandez. As of February, the school's recycling rate had increased to 26.5 percent.

Throughout the year, students have created public service announcements about recycling for B-CC's morning news show, Wake-Up B-CC. In class, students have addressed the topic in various ways: through presentations in Peace Studies classes, through a study of recycling's vocabulary in ESOL classes and by composing music for the PSAs in Music Department Piano classes. Biology students have designed recycling bins using recycled materials.

B-CC held a Recycling Week that started Jan. 25 and was extended, due to snow, to Feb. 3. During this time, classes competed to see which could collect the most clothing and shoes for recycling. Items in good used condition were donated to MAC Recycling, which distributes used clothing overseas, mainly in South America, Ms. Chambers said.

Jan. 25 became "No Tray Tuesday," a day when Styrofoam trays were unavailable in the school cafeteria. On Feb. 3, a portion of the school's trash was put on display in front of the Cyber Café as a visual reminder of what is discarded each day.

B-CC Principal Karen Lockard gamely took on a lead role as the school principal in "The Tray Monger," a five-minute video made by Jonah Goldman ('11), Tim Simon ('11) and a number of B-CC theater students. This humorous movie, which has been posted on YouTube, informs students about the environmental issues behind the use of Styrofoam trays.

B-CC's direct participation in the Audubon's MCPS partnership program concludes this year, Ms. Chambers said. But the school has become part of the Audubon's GreenKids school network and will continue to receive limited support from the program.