

April 2, 2007

Dear Phillippi Families:

Phillippi Shores Elementary is making waste reduction a priority in the cafeteria on Waste Free Lunch Day, April 13th 2007. The garbage will be weighed by grade. The grade with the least amount of garbage per student will win. We will also compare how much we have reduced our waste by weighing our lunch garbage a week prior to the Waste Free Lunch Day. Students from the winning grade will be selected to put together and make a presentation to the School Board explaining how a waste free lunch can save money and how it benefits our environment. The goal is to encourage the School Board to follow Phillippi Shores example and implement a waste free lunch district wide. Gateway School in Santa Cruz, California reduced their lunch waste by 35%, so we know we can beat that if we really try. **When planning lunches for your children you can minimize food and packaging waste by packing a waste-free lunch as often as you can!**

A Waste-free Lunch

Pack...

- Lunches in reusable containers
- Drinks in a thermos or reusable container
- A cloth napkin
- Reusable utensils when needed
- A reusable lunchbox or backpack

A Disposable Lunch

Avoid...

- Lunches packed in plastic bags, foil, wax paper
- Prepackaged lunches
- Prepackaged single-serve lunch items
- Paper napkins
- Disposable drink boxes, pouches, cans, cartons, and bottles
- Disposable forks and spoons

- It has been estimated that on average a single school-age child generates 67 pounds of lunchtime waste per school year. That means Phillippi Shores produces about 40,000 pounds of packaging waste per year. This does not include the amount of food and other garbage discarded.
- In the United States the pounds per day of garbage per person has gone up from 2 ½ pounds in 1960 to 4 ½ pounds in 2005. That's almost double!

Two simple things you can do to reduce waste right now:

1. Bring reusable bags to the market. San Francisco is adopting a ban on plastic bags. The ban is estimated to save 450,000 gallons of oil a year and remove the need to send 1,400 tons of waste now sent annually to area landfills.

2. Use washable water bottles. A large amount of fossil fuels are burned to transport bottled water. 1.5+ million barrels of oil enough to fuel approximately 100,000 cars a year are used to manufacture plastic water bottles. 86% of the bottles end up in landfills and can take over a 1000 years to biodegrade.

In an effort to get you started with our Waste-Free Lunch we will be selling re-usable containers at cost (see back for order form.) Those of you who buy your lunch will be glad to know that our cafeteria will also be participating by using re-useable utensils and containers and reducing the amount of pre-packaged foods served.

If you're looking for more information on packing waste-free lunches, or to find out about waste-free lunch programs at schools across the country, check out www.wastefreelunches.org.

Your participation is appreciated and is key to making our waste reduction in the cafeteria a success.