

TWS ENVIRONMENTAL NEWSLETTER

TERM - 1 (2023-2024)

INTRODUCTION:

Over the past 4 to 5 years, and continuing this year, our school is committed to showcasing sustainable efforts. This newsletter provides updates on key activities, including the E-Waste Collection Drive, Tree Plantation Drive, Green Podcast, Seed Ball crafting, and our participation in the Climate Catalyst Inter-School Competition. These initiatives are integral to educating students on sustainability and align with our commitment to transforming into a more eco-friendly institution.

E WASTE COLLECTION DRIVE

The E-Waste Drive at The Westminster School Dubai, held from September 18-22, 2023, was a success, promoting responsible e-waste disposal through designated stations and green volunteers. Collected e-waste, including phones and chargers, was recycled by Sharaf DG. The initiative underscored the school's commitment to environmental responsibility, with plans for additional sustainability initiatives. Participants praised the drive for its educational impact, and the school anticipates more greener initiatives in the future.



Tree Plantation Drive

A COLLABORATION PROJECT WITH DOUBLE TREE HILTON, SHARJAH.



The Westminster School Dubai, joined forces with seven GEMS schools for the tree plantation drive on October 10th, marking the commencement of the green journey for the Academic Year 2023-24. Sponsored generously by DoubleTree Hilton Sharjah, this eco-conscious effort aimed to raise awareness about the vital role trees play in mitigating climate change. Representatives from all participating schools and the DoubleTree Hilton Sharjah team converged to support a greener future by planting trees around The Westminster School Dubai premises, highlighting the power of collective action and inter-community cooperation.

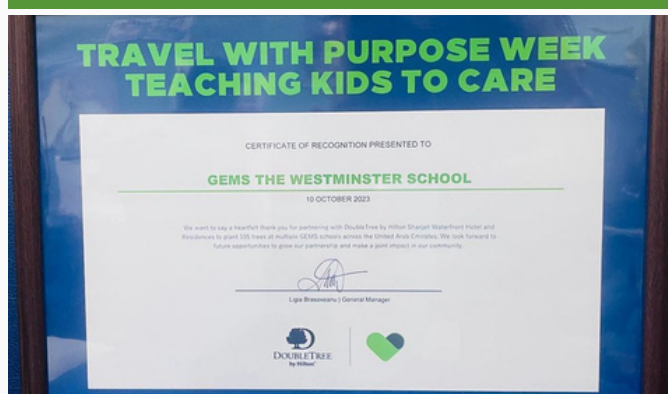
Ahead of the event, local ecosystem-appropriate Neem saplings were thoughtfully chosen and nurtured for a successful plantation drive. As a token of appreciation, participating schools received tree saplings, enabling them to contribute to the cause by planting these in their own school premises. This event served as a testament to the commitment of these schools towards environmental conservation and the shared responsibility of protecting our planet.

The school was awarded a certificate as a token of recognition for our dedicated efforts in educating children about environmental care

NURTURING A GREEN LEGACY:

PLANTING THE SEEDS OF ENVIRONMENTAL COMMITMENT

A certificate awarded to the TWS Green Family by The Double Tree by Hilton Family



COLLABORATING SCHOOLS

The guest schools arrived with their respective environmental leaders and coordinators for the green event.



GEMS WINCHESTER SCHOOL,
ABU DHABI



GEMS WESTMINSTER SCHOOL,
RAS AL KHAIMAH



GEMS WINCHESTER SCHOOL,
FUJAIRAH



GEMS WINCHESTER SCHOOL,
DUBAI LAND



THE WINCHESTER SCHOOL,
JEBEL ALI

THE GREEN FAMILY 2023-24



ADDRESS BY SENIOR LEADERSHIP TEAM

“The heart of implementation is everybody, everywhere in the world every single day doing everything they possibly can to address the climate crisis” Rightly said by Simon Stiell, The UN Climate Change executive secretary.



➤➤➤ MR. CARL ROBERTS

The principal's message emphasized the collective commitment to sustainability through tree planting, transcending borders. He thanked the guests from DoubleTree Hilton Sharjah for their contributions and underscored the potential for global transformation through their combined efforts.



MR. CARL ROBERTS
EXECUTIVE PRINCIPAL/CEO

➤➤➤ DR. VIJAYAJUMARI SATHYAN

Ms. Viji announced the relaunch of the green website and expressed gratitude to DoubleTree Hilton, the esteemed guest schools, highlighting their remarkable collaborative efforts and shared purpose. She inspired the audience and green representatives and initiated a sapling planting initiative across the school premises.



DR. VIJAYAKUMARI SATHYAN
HEAD OF SCHOOL/DEPUTY
CEO

SPECIAL GUESTS

The Green Family events were honored to have the presence of distinguished guests who shared their insights and support for the cause.

Notable among them were:



➤➤➤ MS. LIGIA BRASOVEANU

Ms. Ligia and her team played a pivotal role in sponsoring and facilitating the tree plantation drive. Their commitment to environmental sustainability was evident in their support for the event.



MS. LIGIA BRASOVEANU
GENERAL MANAGER OF
DOUBLETREE HILTON SHARJAH

➤➤➤ MRS. RANJU ANAND

Mrs. Ranju Anand, the Senior Vice President of Schools, provided a key endorsement of the Green Family's initiatives. Her presence encouraged and inspired the participating schools to continue their efforts towards environmental conservation.



MRS. RANJU ANAND
SENIOR VICE PRESIDENT OF
SCHOOLS

THE GREEN WEBSITE






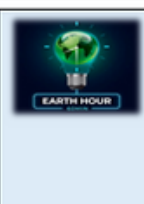







QR CODE TO OUR GREEN WEBSITE



SESSION 2

Session 2 was the first face to face interactive session with the six other GEMS cluster schools from across the seven Emirates. Under the leadership of the Head of School/Deputy CEO, Dr. Vijayakumari Sathyan, the discussion served as a pivotal moment where the cluster schools aligned the green goals and intentions, emphasizing the collective dedication to environmental preservation and sustainability. With primary focus on surpassing the established criteria for the prestigious Green Flag Award, the discussion also laid emphasis on the upcoming Annual Green event- the objectives being sustainable food and energy resources. These initiatives underscore our resolute commitment to environmental awareness, education, and sustainability, and we look forward to collaborating with our cluster schools and partners to make a positive impact on our environment.

GREEN JOURNEY OF TWS 2023-24										
SR NO	EVENT/INITIATIVE	OBJECTIVE	IDENT INVOLVEM	TIMELINE	MSO SUPPORT	HOW/TO BE DONE	TEACHERS/LEADERS RESPON	EXPECTED OUTCOME	WHAT NEXT?	
1	 MAKE EXPLODING SEEDS	Rebuild in natural ecosystems and bio-suitability of school.	Whole School (169 classes); FTz	Sept/Oct'23	Providing space for the making of the seed balls and also drying the seed balls in the sun for 1 day; providing with resources organic potting soil, sand, red pottery clay, mixing bowl, water	The green team of every class along with their FT will come to the venue during one of the Wall Bin periods and make the seed ball. One seed ball per class will be made.	All FTs; Coordination by Mr Atulya (Primary), Mr Florence (Sec Girls), Mr Sruthika (Sec Boys) led by Mr Marhanil	169 seed balls using concrete seeds	Have them place in the garden bed and watch these explode! Gardeners will need to water them on a daily basis till the time we get rich harvest in March'24. The harvest to be handed over to FOOD ATM founder (Ajman).	
2	 BLACK GOLD! (MAKING COMPOST)	Recycling kitchen waste and improving the health of soil thereby reducing the need for pesticides and fertilizers.	Whole School	Sept onwards (ongoing project)	Providing an easy accessible place for the student volunteers to deposit the kitchen waste; proper compartment for Primary, Secondary Girls and Secondary Boys; mixing all soil with the kitchen waste and sprinkling water to maintain moisture in the garden at regular intervals.	Students to bring kitchen waste which will be collected by the Year level Green Coordinators; all the Year level Green coordinators along with teacher coordinators to deposit the waste in the bins; Primary on Monday, Sec Girls on Tuesday, Sec Boys on Wednesday; Gardeners will need to mix soil and sprinkle water to maintain an easy Thursday/Friday; students to measure and record the making of compost.	All Year level Green Coordinators and compost volunteers; Coordination by Mr Atulya (Primary), Mr Florence (Sec Girls), Mr Sruthika (Sec Boys) led by Mr Marhanil	Framing quality of compost for the organic garden at TWS	Use the compost for the carrot cultivation and other green house/ bio-identification green projects at TWS.	
3	 SWITCH IT OFF!	Make people aware of simple electricity saving tips and encourage to reduce their electricity usage thereby reducing carbon emissions.	Whole School	Sept onwards (ongoing project)	Extending support in cutting off the power supply to the classrooms for 30 minutes from 3:00 am to 3:20 am during the winter months of Dec, Jan and Feb by providing the team with the school's electricity bills.	Students to turn off the lights/AO machine/ Clevertouch computers when not in use; Building up a bill to be shared by MSO; school department with certificate for successful PBL in the assembly; any one who brings bill having reduced consumption for 2 consecutive months an ongoing project.	All Year level Green Coordinators/ Class council/ Mr Kiran (Lead teacher)	Reduced carbon emissions (reduction in the consumption unit reflects in the bills)	Reaching out to the parents (via community) to practice the same at home/school.	
4	 THRIFT FOR GOOD! (Share Collection)	Donation of labor for the underprivileged communities in collaboration with T4G, a non-profit organization.	Whole School	Jan to Feb'24	Providing with the cartons boxes to be used for collecting support in getting the boxes wrapped and labelled before handing over the donation to T4G.	Circular to be rolled out in first week of Jan; collection starts in Jan continue till Feb; cartons boxes to be wrapped and labelled; contribution to be handed over to T4G.	All Year Level Green Coordinators/ Mr Florence/ Mr Sruthika/ Mr Atulya led by Mr Marhanil	Enrich the lives of 30 school children with the collection (AY 2022-23); achieved enriching lives of 27 school children with the clothes collection drive)	Reaching out to the needy & donating to T4G; promoting reuse	
5	 TWS SPROUT CORNER!	Growing microgreens not only adds nutritional content but also can boost color, flavor and add texture to any dish. Hence, encouraging students to grow sprouts will not only promote healthy eating but also the well-being of the student.	Whole School	Oct/Nov	Use of one corner of the classroom as TWS SPROUT CORNER.	Circular to be rolled out in Sept; students to bring own trays, soil, grains of their choice; students to take turns in taking good care of the sprouts which include watering and recording the growth of the zone.	All FTs/ Green coordinators/ Mr Florence/ Mr Sruthika/ Mr Atulya led by Mr Marhanil	Rich harvest of microgreen	HOH to initiate House competitions (Sale of making of Cooking without fire) where the grown microgreens will be used by the students as a vital ingredient.	
TWS CLIMATE CHANGE ANNUAL EVENT 2023-24 (International Event)										
SR NO	EVENT/INITIATIVE	OBJECTIVE	IDENT INVOLVEM	TIMELINE	MSO SUPPORT	HOW/TO BE DONE	TEACHERS/LEADERS RESPON	EXPECTED OUTCOME	WHAT NEXT?	
4	 E-STEAM <i>(Events name and logo to be decided and finalized)</i>	Energy and Food security; Green Economy (aimed at achieving the frame of Paris on the climate mentioned)	Year 10, 11, 12 and 13	20th Feb, 2024 (Main Event); Preparations from Sept onwards	Country to be decided; theme to be finalized; circular to be rolled out by Oct/Online preparative sessions to be conducted; Main event to be held on 22nd Feb'24.	Country to be decided; theme to be finalized; circular to be rolled out by Oct/Online preparative sessions to be conducted; Main event to be held on 22nd Feb'24.	Marhanil (Organizer); Entire Green Girls team; Green leaders; Green coordinators; Event Manager	Sustainable enterprise	Preparation of ideas at EXP/International platform	

SUSTAINABILITY ACTION PLAN

GREEN FLAG AWARD PROGRAM OVERVIEW

The process for attaining the prestigious Green Flag Award entails a structured journey, consisting of several key steps. These steps not only signify a commitment to environmental sustainability but also a comprehensive approach to sustainability education. The path begins with the completion of the Eco-School Seven Steps course, a pivotal foundational element. This educational program, hosted on the FEE Academy platform, equips participants with the knowledge and tools needed to embark on their sustainability journey.



GREEN FLAG AWARD (2 YEARS PROJECT, minimum 800 points and 70% achievement in every step required)

GREEN FLAG ASSESSMENT RUBRICS (SEVEN STEPS)

STEP 1: ECO COMMITTEE

SR NO	PERFORMANCE INDICATOR	POINTS	SCORING SYSTEM	TIPS	DOCUMENTATION	STATUS OF PROGRESS	SELF ASSESSMENT SCORE
1	Students are the driving force of the Eco Committee.	10	50% students	Connect with the local government, school management, parents and local volunteers.	List of Eco Committee members.		
2	Eco Committee continuation- the Eco Committee members remain on the committee onto the second year to ensure continuity and a smooth handover into the next cycle.	5	1/3 of members continue	Create a handover document including information on the Sustainability Audit, the rationale of the Action Plan, Monitoring and the Eco Code.	Handover document, List of Eco Committee members from the first year and list of those joined in the second year pledging their		
3	The Eco Committee meets regularly	10	Minimum 8 meetings in the school year	Meet often and spread the meetings throughout the school year.	MOM of the committee meetings atleast for 3 meetings.		
4	The Eco Committee minutes are recorded, documented and submitted with the Green Flag application.	5	All key decisions are documented in the form of minutes (MOM)	Use Template (Refer to Eco School Seven Steps course)	MOM of the committee meetings atleast for 3 meetings.		
5	Sustainable participation in the Committee. The number of students on the Eco Committee is sufficient and efficient.	5	Minimum 8 and maximum	Atleast 1 student per year group. The maximum number is defined to ensure efficiency during committee meetings. The large group can be split into smaller groups.	List of Eco Committee members.		
6	Eco Committee meetings are chaired by students.	5	Student always chairs the meetings	This facilitates the development of leadership skills.	List of Eco Committee members.		
7	The Eco Committee is visible.	5	publicised in the school noticeboard/website/social media/newsletter.	This ensures that the students in the school know who to reach out to and who to consult about sustainability issues.	Evidence of visibility (photos of noticeboards, screenshots of website/social media		

Glimpses from the event



The Green Podcast

On October 13, 2023, The Westminster School in Dubai hosted the launch assembly for "Today's Voice, Tomorrow's Vision," The Green Podcast. Secondary boys, girls, and sixth form students are collaborating as hosts and co-hosts, conducting interviews with guest speakers. The podcast aims to address current environmental impacts and explore preventive measures for a greener environment. During the assembly, team leaders introduced themselves, explained their roles, and highlighted the podcast's benefits for the entire school community. They also discussed the podcast's concept, presentation format, and provided details on where students can access and watch it.



TWS Podcast Team

Abigail Chidera (13F) - Co-Host, Mohammed Fahad - (12B) Host, Dova Shihab (11G6) - Founder, Researcher & Social Media Manager, Laiba Fatima - (11G3) - Co-Founder & Graphic Designer, Zahra Ali (13E)

The team received assistance from Year 11 students Krish and Raza, who serve as the video editors in charge.



DR. VIJAYAKUMARI SATHYAN
HEAD OF SCHOOL/DEPUTY CEO



MR. CARL ROBERTS
EXECUTIVE PRINCIPAL/CEO

Podcast logo reveal



Following that an address was presented by our Head of School where she encouraged all students to participate in sustainable programs initiated this year to create an impact, including energy conservation, reducing food waste, and more.

The podcast logo was unveiled by our Executive CEO and Principal, Mr. Carl Roberts, and the Head of School, Dr. Vijayakumari Sathyan.

Climate Catalyst Interschool Competition

Our School had another outstanding accomplishment of our Year 6 students at the Climate Catalyst Inter-school competition held at Woodlem Park School, Dubai, on November 18, 2023. Our students excelled in various categories, with a notable triumph in the Green Video Contest. The winning team members, Jeff Jim (6K), Vian Rao (6J), and Salman Rahmy (6M), showcased remarkable creativity and a commitment to environmental advocacy. This success underscores our school's dedication to cultivating well-rounded individuals with a strong sense of environmental responsibility, and we extend our congratulations to the students and gratitude to our educators for their guidance. Join us in celebrating this significant achievement, reinforcing our school's reputation as a hub for nurturing environmentally conscious leaders.

Glimpses from the event



Seed Ball Crafting



On the vibrant morning of November 8, 2023, TWS students eagerly gathered in the grand sports area for a seed ball-making activity. Representing diverse year levels, these students were united with a common feeling of responsibility, collaboration and commitment towards our environment.

Guided by enthusiastic hosts, students unraveled the art of making the seedball

The materials provided by the school included, seeds, soil, and water.

Students expertly blended red and regular soil, carefully incorporating water to form a pliable paste. Molding this mixture into shapes, each encapsulated a seed at its core. The hands-on activity provided an immersive experience in the intricate process of crafting environmentally significant green gems.

**SEEDS OF CHANGE:
CULTIVATING
TOMORROW, ONE
SEED BALL AT A TIME**

Following the seed ball crafting, the Senior Leadership Team and Green Leaders led a group to the Primary OLA area, where students collectively planted the seed balls. This marked the inaugural green event of the academic year 2023-2024, blending education with experience and reinforcing our commitment to environmental stewardship at TWS

Seed Ball crafting process



What are seed balls?

- **Seed balls:** A blend of soil, clay and seeds for native plant distribution.
- **Protection:** They keep seeds in place until rain provides necessary water.
- **Shielding:** Clay and soil guard seeds from strong winds and sun's heat.

Advantages of Seed Balls

- Seed balls simplify planting and conserve water.
- They protect seeds and aid in erosion control.
- They promote biodiversity, require minimal maintenance, and are cost-effective for community involvement in conservation efforts.

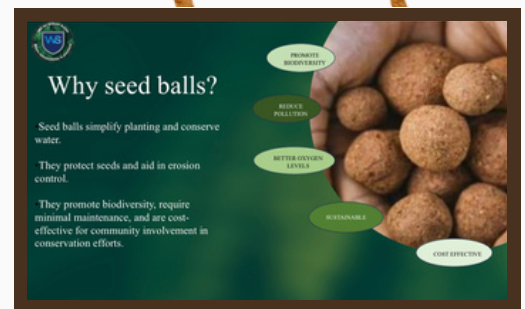
How to make seedballs?

- Add the clay, compost, seeds and water to your mixing bowl.
- Use your hands or a stick to mix everything together. Add more water if needed. Make sure that the seeds are evenly spread throughout the mixture.
- Use your hands to roll the mixture into firm balls about the size of a golf ball.
- Place the seed balls onto a tray and leave them to dry in the sun.
- Store the seed balls in a cardboard box until they are ready to use.



Raising Awareness Across TWS

Preceding the significant event, The Westminster School (TWS) witnessed a vibrant display of environmental awareness, with students from all year levels actively participating in initiatives promoting sustainability. The campaign commenced with engaging presentations across different year levels, enlightening the entire school community on the ecological significance of seed balls and providing step-by-step insights into the creative process. Noteworthy successes included the mobilization of a diverse group of volunteers, including student representatives from Primary, Secondary, and Sixth Form, along with senior leadership members. This impressive turnout demonstrated a collective commitment to environmental stewardship, marking a substantial stride toward fostering a culture of sustainability within the school. The initiative sparked a shared passion for sustainable practices, allowing students to actively contribute to a cause aligned with principles of ecological responsibility.



The initiative not only provided an avenue for meaningful engagement but also served as a catalyst for building a stronger sense of environmental consciousness within the student body.

As we celebrate this achievement, we extend our

gratitude to all the students who participated and volunteered. Their dedication showcases the potential for positive change when a community unites for a shared cause.

Moving forward, the seed ball initiative stands as a testament to the power of collective action and the impact that a united community can have on fostering a greener and more sustainable future. Let this be a seed planted for more initiatives that will continue to blossom and shape a community dedicated to environmental well-being.

Glimpses of the Event

