

2007-2008 Environmental Program Overview: **Rama Central P.S.**

1. **GREEN TEAM**: Our Green Team consists of custodians, several other staff members and many students, from Kindergarten through Grade 8. Each class has classroom recycling and composting monitors. There are also about 30 Kindergarten-Grade 8 students involved in one or more extra-curricular Green Team activities. This year, we added a Boomerang Lunch Program and composting to our existing recycling, conservation and environmental education programs.
2. **FOOD AND BEVERAGE RECYCLING**: The custodians empty classroom food and beverage recycling containers daily and take these items to the outdoor bins, as required.
3. **PAPER RECYCLING**: Student monitors in each class are responsible for emptying classroom paper recycling bins into hallway bins, as required. Green Team members collect paper recycling from the library and staff areas and empty hallway paper recycling bins twice per week, during second recess.
4. **COMPOSTING**: Student monitors in each class are responsible for delivering classroom compost containers to the Learning Centre any time they need emptying. Green Team members drop by the Learning Centre daily, at second recess, to deliver compost to outdoor composting bins, rinse classroom containers and return them to classrooms. Our existing pair of composters weren't keeping up with the demand, so we now have five composters on site. Each is labelled with a number, and a note in the Learning Centre informs Green Team members of which composter to use on a given day.
5. **TRASH PATROL**: Each Monday, at morning recess, a staff member and several students from Kindergarten through Grade 6 engage in a yard clean-up. Younger students particularly enjoy assisting with this "treasure-hunt-like" activity.
6. **GARDENING**: The custodians and a staff member oversee this activity. We are currently rebuilding the front gardens (including a butterfly garden) that were ploughed-under when our school's septic system was replaced. Many classrooms are hosting/nurturing young plants for our garden. We are growing these in old plastic water and juice bottles and styrofoam trays until conditions are favourable for transplanting outside. We are also working on a proposal for using native plants to "green" the dead sod area over our new septic system.
7. **EXTRA-CURRICULAR ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION**: Several students, from Grades 1-6 attend weekly Green Team workshops, geared at educating them about environmental issues and mobilizing them to encourage the rest of the student body to engage in the Boomerang Lunch Program, plus effective conservation, recycling and composting practices. During the month of May, students attending weekly workshops are learning about greener pest control practices they can utilize at school and at home.
8. **OUTDOOR CLASSROOM**: We have a picnic table located on the north side of the school, in the fenced-in Kindergarten yard. This table is utilized by groups of students, such as Green Team workshop attendees. In addition, the shade beneath the wonderful old-growth pines in our schoolyard often hosts classes of students for stories, class discussions and other learning activities, during warm weather months. Our Parent Council has put a more extensive outdoor classroom on its "wish list." We hope to begin raising funds for this project next school year.
9. **COMMUNICATION/ENCOURAGING INVOLVEMENT**: Green Team workshop members share environmental information and encourage conservation, recycling and composting via hand-made posters, bulletin board displays, contests, and morning announcements. We also share our environmental program with the broader community, and encourage home involvement, via regular updates in the school newsletter and on our school website.