

Community Partnership: Ready for Resources Reborn?

“Waste management issues” have not only become a hot topic in Hong Kong recently, but they are also an indispensable topic in Education for Sustainable Development (ESD). Schools, as part of the community, should go beyond merely teaching from textbooks. Instead, they should engage with the community to help students gain a deeper understanding of the current situation and even become part of the solution.

By collaborating with community partners, what unexpected educational resources can schools access? What types of environmental education activities can they jointly develop? Let’s take a look at how two schools, recognised with the Outstanding Award in the “2023 Best Green Education Initiative Award”, have connected with community partners, unleashed creativity, and promoted initiatives for waste reduction and resource reborn!



Education Initiative 1: Crayon Reborn Environmental Campaign

[Initiated School: Kwong Ming School]



Theme

- Old Crayon Recycling and Repurposing
- Use Less Waste Less
- Resource Reborn



Learning Objectives

- Enhance students’ awareness of resource conservation and encourage them to actively practise an eco-friendly lifestyle.
- Strengthen students’ sense of responsibility towards the community and the environment, by arranging them to plan and lead the initiative.
- Promote the culture of “Use Less, Waste Less” to kindergartens in the district.



Targets

- Primary 6 Students
- Kindergarteners in the Yuen Long District

Content

- The campaign was implemented progressively with a clear environmental theme, based on the teaching strategy of “Knowledge, Affection, Realisation, Meaningfulness and Action”:

1

Preliminary Stage: Classroom Learning



- Understood the impacts of global warming (General Studies)
- Introduction to crayon story through picture book (English)
- Puppet show script writing (Chinese)
- Learnt the crayon remaking process

2

Interim Stage: Self-learning



- Background research on the types of recyclables, recycling process & industry
- Students pitched the recycling campaign to kindergarten principals and successfully invited seven kindergartens to collaborate

3

Final Stage: Promotion & Experiential Activity



Promoted the concept of crayon recycling

- Created promotional poster and leaflet
- Conducted puppet shows at kindergartens
- Produced stop-motion animations to create the ending of the puppet show (Visual Arts and Computer Studies)

Broadened the audiences & amplified impacts

- Organised crayon remaking workshops for kindergarteners and their parents in the district



Highlights

- The programme was comprehensive, consisting eight stages that integrated interdisciplinary knowledge and values education. It advanced students' environmental education through knowledge acquisition, experiential learning and practical implementation.
- Key school stakeholders, including the principal, vice principal and several subject teams were involved, while Primary 6 students took the leading role in coordinating the recycling campaign.
- The school successfully collaborated with seven kindergartens in the Yuen Long district, collecting over 1000 old crayons, and taught more than 400 kindergarteners how to remake crayons. This initiative not only effectively strengthened students' sense of responsibility for protecting the environment, but also further promoted the concept of recycling to the kindergarteners and their families in the district.
- Before the campaign commenced, questionnaires and interviews were conducted to assess students' environmental awareness and attitudes. At the end, evaluations were carried out through feedback surveys from all the participating stakeholders (including students, teachers, parents, teachers and parents of participating kindergartens). Positive feedback was received, showing that the campaign effectively motivated students to adopt a green lifestyle.

Education Initiative 2: Repurpose Wood Scraps Magically

[Initiated School: Kowloon Tong School (Primary Section)]



Theme

- Waste Wood Upcycling
- Waste Wood Utilisation
- Live with Nature
- New Life for Waste Wood



Learning Objectives

- Enable students to work with “Waste Wood” and transform them into useful products through upcycling.
- Foster students’ artistic potential while promoting eco-friendly concepts, with the goal of achieving sustainable development and resource conservation.



Targets

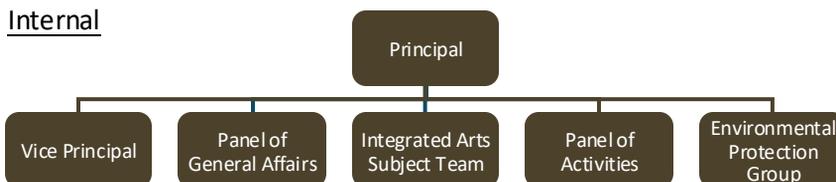
- All students, teachers and parents
- General public



Content

Stakeholders Involvement & Collaboration

Internal



External

Master Lam Chi and his team

Woodwork Workshops (4 sessions in total)

| | 1 st Term (2 sessions) | 2 nd Term (2 sessions) |
|----------|--------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| Target | P.4 – P.6 students | P.1 – P.3 students |
| Activity | Wooden stool crafting | Wooden gyroscope crafting |



The traditional woodworking master taught students woodworking skills and shared knowledge about trees



Content (con'd)

Learning Outside the Classroom

- Visited the Tzu Chi Environmental Action Center to appreciate artworks made from waste wood
- Explored Y·PARK to gain insights into local waste wood issues and potential solutions



Showcase of Upcycled Products



Upcycled wooden stools were placed on campus for parents' and students' use on Parents' Day and school days



The upcycled wooden stools were publicly displayed at the "2022 Student Works Exhibition" held at the Hong Kong Cultural Centre



Highlights

- Originated by teachers and involved close collaboration among different stakeholders to implement a series of activities related to "Waste Wood". Master Lam Chi and his team were also invited to teach students wood crafting techniques.
- Utilised local "Waste Wood" as educational resources and created a unique eco-learning experience for students. Students not only learnt traditional craftsmanship, but also gained insights into the adoption of environmentally-friendly production processes, such as using joinery techniques and substituting beeswax for chemical coatings.
- Upcycled wooden stools and gyroscopes were integrated into campus life. The products were also displayed on Parents' Day and the Student Works Public Exhibition, advocating the significance of waste wood recycling and sustainability to the public.

Summary

An impactful green education initiative not only engages stakeholders within the school, but also connects with various community sectors, effectively promoting the message and practices of environmental conservation. By empowering students to take on leadership roles, schools can further enhance their self-directed learning and foster a strong sense of ownership in the project.

From "waste" materials (e.g. crayons and waste wood) to community partners (e.g. kindergartens and woodworking master), there are many readily available resources in the community for us to discover. Schools could consider starting with nearby communities and build partnerships to drive innovative, unique, and impactful environmental education initiatives.

This approach not only facilitates the sharing of resources and knowledge, enriching and diversifying environmental education, but also cultivates students' sense of responsibility towards the environment and society. Ultimately, it aims to gradually establish a robust community network that supports and advocates for sustainable development.