



Environmental Character Education



Curriculum Resources

Clean Buses

Elementary School - April 2006

Tolerance means recognizing and respecting differences, values, and beliefs of others. Many times we forget to be mindful of the **tolerance** levels of the environments in which we live, work, and play. Just as we need to respectfully share our lives with people who are different than us, we need to learn to respect the plants and animals that share our planet.

Clean Buses Anti-Idling Activity:

Background: Buses are good for the environment because they produce less pollution than if everyone on the bus rode in a separate car. However, their exhaust fumes are still harmful to you and the environment. Children and youth are more susceptible to the harmful effects of exhaust and particulate pollution than adults.

Diesel buses only pollute when the engines are running. The problem is that when petroleum-based diesel fuel is burned, it emits up to 40 types of toxic materials as well as particulates that the kids breath in. Often, the exhaust can even make it into the school through air intake vents. Because of this, it is best if the bus engines are turned off when the buses are not moving. "Idling" is when a bus engine is on, but the bus is not moving.

Activity:

Have students prepare posters for display throughout the school demonstrating ways to make school buses cleaner and make others aware of the effects of idling. Have teachers from each grade level select a winner, and display the winning posters in the school lobby or office. Hand out special awards for the most creative posters and have an article about the winning posters in the school newsletter.

Ideas about how to avoid the health risks of idling school buses:

- ⇒ Don't idle. School buses can turn off their engines while waiting.
- ⇒ Encourage school administrators to adopt an "Anti-Idling" policy.
- ⇒ Park school buses away from air intake units that transport air inside the school. If possible, have the air intakes moved away from bus loops and parking lots.
- ⇒ Encourage administrators to promote the use of alternative, clean-burning fuels such as bio-diesel instead of petroleum fuels.

Florida Panther Art & Poetry Contest

Open to all Broward County students
Grades K - 12

Categories:

Art: 8.5-inch x 11-inch color
(must be free hand, not computer generated)

Poetry: 25 lines maximum

Photography: 8-inch x 10-inch matted
(must provide original photo)

Each entry **must** be judged internally by the classroom teacher. The first place entry from each class will be entered in the contest.

- ▶ Entries due Monday, May 16th
- ▶ Awards will be presented on October 21st

Send entries to **Pat Crawley** via:

The Pony **OR** US Mail

Academy Programs Nova Middle / Gemini Building	Academy Programs 3600 College Ave. Gemini Building Room 181 Davie, FL 33314
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Environmental Educator of the Year Award (Teacher / Administrator / Student)

Please nominate a teacher, administrator or student from your school for this prestigious award. Applications are due to Pat Crawley by May 26, 2006

For more information, and to download a nomination form, please go to www.broward.org/kids/teachers.htm or call Pat Crawley at 754-323-3759

Deadline for the

"Air Pollution Solutions" Poster Contest is April 7, 2006

For complete contest description and rules, visit our web site at

www.broward.org/kids/environment.htm

or e-mail airoutreach@broward.org.



By completing and submitting the survey below, you will be entered into a drawing for 4 free passes to Walt Disney World!

Please take a few minutes to complete the survey below to help the Broward County Environmental Protection Department better assess your needs. Thank you for the opportunity to work with you and your students.

Name: _____ School Name: _____

Grade(s) taught in 2005-2006: _____ Phone Number: _____

Subject(s) taught in 2005-2006: _____

Please check the Character Education newsletters you found most useful:

Character Trait	Elementary Theme	Middle School Theme	High School Theme	✓	Comments
Cooperation	Greenhouse Effect	Global Warming	Global Warming		
Responsibility	Make a Difference	Environmental Responsibility	Environmental Responsibility		
Citizenship	Recycling	Recycling	Recycling		
Kindness	Environmentally Friendly Holidays	Environmental Kindness	Personal Transportation Chart		
Respect	Florida Native Species	Environmental Respect	Native Plants/ Global Warming		
Honesty	Shel Silverstein poem discussion	Packaging Choices	Packaging Choices		
Self-control	Endangered Species	Ecological Footprint	Int'l Earth Day/ Open Burning		
Tolerance	Clean Buses	Clean Buses	Earth Day		

Fax your completed survey to the Broward County Environmental Protection Department, 954-519-1495, by May 26, 2006, to be entered into the drawing.

Thank you for your time and have a wonderful, restful summer break!

