

## Green Facts:

Did you know??

- An average household throws away 13,000 pieces of paper a year.
- 27% of all news papers in the US are recycled
- Average American uses 7 trees a year in paper = 2,000,000,000 trees per year nation wide.
- Americans throw away 25,000,000,000 Styrofoam coffee cups every year.
- We use 2,500,000 plastic soda bottles every day. Most are thrown away
- Each day 20,000,000 Hershey's Kisses are wrapped with 133 square miles of aluminum.

**Want to save on electricity in your home?** Make sure that your dryer filter screen is always clean. About every 3 to 4 months take the filter out of the dryer and rinse it under the kitchen faucet using mild soap to scrub it clean. **Set the filter on a towel to completely dry before re-installing.** Dryer sheets reduce the efficiency of the dryer and heating element shortening the life of the dryer.

*Unhealthy school environments that go ignored and unchecked affect children's health because children are more vulnerable than adults to environmental health hazards.*

*If you have questions about district policies, or want to further information please contact:*

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*For links to other organizations promoting healthy school environments please visit:*

[www.healthyschools.org](http://www.healthyschools.org)

[www.dph.state.ct.us](http://www.dph.state.ct.us)

[www.fvhd.org](http://www.fvhd.org)

Picture on cover is by the winner of the district art contest.  
Tootin' Hills School 2nd Grader  
Amanda Zhao



**NATIONAL  
HEALTHY  
SCHOOLS DAY**

**Monday, April 28, 2008**



**SIMSBURY**  
Public Schools

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# NATIONAL HEALTHY SCHOOLS DAY IS FOR EVERYONE!



**This is a day to promote healthy school environments for children and school personnel.**

## Goal:

To heighten awareness and recognize the benefits of a healthy school environment.

## Vision:

Incorporate a safe and healthy environment by utilizing National Green Standards.

## Mission Statement:

To educate staff and students on the benefits of maintaining healthy air quality by reducing the use of harmful products and promoting better health, learning and working conditions. This will be accomplished with cooperation from our district wide Safety Team, our Tools for Schools work groups, Food Services and the Board of Education.

*Use the 2 for 2 systems. This means that staff and students take 2 minutes twice a day to look around the room, hallways, and restrooms to see what they can do to keep the area clean and safe.*

## WHAT IS THE DISTRICT DOING?

Simsbury Public Schools is reducing the use of harsh chemicals that are used in the schools by adopting the **EPP** cleaning program (environmentally preferred products).

Only use cleaning supplies that have been pre-approved for safety. Materials brought from home may contain harmful chemicals. **MSDS** (material safety data sheet) must be on file in the main office for any supplies that are brought into buildings.

**SPS Food Services** is now serving healthier meals with the reduction of sugars and fats. Special salads are now available to our students weekly. We have begun to use plastic milk bottles that are recycled. Food service workers continue to be educated in the proper handling of food.

**Tools for Schools** work groups have been established in each school and have begun to receive training to help improve their schools air quality.

Our buildings and grounds department has changed lighting in the schools to compact fluorescent lighting (CFL). This has allowed a significant savings in the district energy use. We have also had a notable increase in the amount of product that we send to recycle.

*The number of children in classrooms, hallways, cafeterias, gymnasiums and other areas create huge cleaning and maintenance challenges.*



## WHAT CAN YOU DO TO HELP?

**Problem:** Rear entry doors to school are open. This gives pests and human intruders easy access to the school.

**Solution:** Keep all school doors closed!

**Problem:** Puddles of unknown liquids (water? juice? garbage?) attract pests.

**Solution:** Follow label directions for disposal of all chemicals: wipe down areas regularly!

**Problem:** Un-recycled materials add to school trash disposal costs and provide nesting materials for pests.



**Solution:** RECYCLE!

**Problem:** Open, overflowing, leaking dumpsters and wet smelly garbage attract, feed, and harbor pests such as rodents, skunks, mosquitoes and flies.

**Solution:** Keep bins closed, clean area daily, and make sure garbage is removed regularly!

**Problem:** Food and beverages in educational spaces.

**Solution:** Food and beverage attract insects, pests and varmints. Keep only in authorized areas.