Environmental Education Update

ECOBUZZ

Edition 45 Term One 2012



Inside – Greenwood Kindergarten is going solar , Learn about the Stokes Stream rescue,

Kids Edible Gardens, Schoolgen – energy efficiency resources

Seaweek Photography Competition with Cawthron, Setting the classroom culture activity

And much more



EcoBuzz is created with the help of many contributors – thank you to you all! Feel free to share this newsletter with others.



<u>Kia ora Koutou</u> – 2012 is here and no doubt your classes, plans and calendars are all in full swing. We trust this issue of EcoBuzz will add value and offer you some support in your important work of instilling in our young a sense of hope, empowerment and engagement with the natural world. It's the international year of Co-operatives and it's also the year of sustainable energy for all – two wonderful themes to pursue.

We believe having an ongoing and meaningful relationship with the natural world will have many benefits – like increased resiliency to change (including climatic), a deep understanding of how we are all part of the ecosystem not separate to it. And perhaps most importantly instill feelings of empowerment and the skills to make a meaningful difference to 'our world'.

Please make contact with anyone who has contributed to EcoBuzz we are all available to support those of you at the coalface of the classroom.

Noho ora mai rā. Adie, Rob, Claire, Lindsay and Jo.









Lindsay Fish



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Please feel free to contact any of us;

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Inspiring and challenging quotes -

- "Nature helps children develop powers of observation and creativity and instils a sense of peace and being at one with the world" (Louv 1991).
- Senegalese ecologist Baba Dioum says: "In the end we will conserve only what we love. We love only what we understand. We will understand only what we are taught."
- "It is not so important to know, as it is to feel" (real behaviour change comes from our feelings, not from our head!) from Joseph Cornell.
- "We need to expand our identity to include everything around us" (we are part of the environment, and part of everything around us) from Joseph Cornell.
- (In environmental education) "a sense of joy should permeate the experience" from Joseph Cornell.
- "I have seen, through my own experience and that of others, how profound moments with nature foster a true and vital understanding of our place in the world" from Joseph Cornell.
- "We believe it is important that children Be respected as competent, powerful learners and risk-takers who have a voice in what they create and learn through nature" the World Forum Foundation.

NCC Heritage week, 15-22nd April 2012

Velvet the Giant Eel, a travelling tapestry highlighting New Zealand's unique long fin eel, will be hanging at Nelson Provincial Museum for Heritage Week. It is made up of colourful segments created nationwide and you will be able to add your creative appliqué to the Nelson segment upstairs in the Museum Boardroom and hear Velvet's story while you are there. This can happen between 11 am to 2 pm from 16 to 20 April. For more information contact Debbie Daniell-Smith on 5460331 or debbie.daniell-smith@ncc.govt.nz

<u>Stoke Streams rescue project – at Bunnings Community Fun Day 17 March</u>



For further information contact Lynne Hall, Nelson City Council 546 0308, or lynne.hall@ncc.govt.nz. Cancelled if wet.

In July last year, Nelson City Council, with funding from the Ministry for the Environment, launched a project to help clean up the Stoke Streams. A number of Nelson's urban streams are in a poor state of health but the streams in the Stoke area all have very degraded water quality. On Saturday 17 March, there will be an opportunity to learn about what lives in Orphanage Stream and what you can do to help rescue our urban streams!

The Cawthron Institute is a partner in the project and there will also be a scientist there to show how water quality is tested. Join us at Bunnings Community Fun Day on 17 March in the Bunnings car park – community groups will be showcasing what they do and there will be lots of fun activities and opportunities to get involved.

Greenwood Kindergarten Solar Studies

Wow, have you seen the wonderful plastic bottle growing house that Greenwood Kindergarten children and staff designed and built? Often we see the end product of a project and, like with any good advertisement, want one in our school or centre.

Greenwood staff had a vision of becoming a solar powered kindergarten. First thought was how can we afford the solar panels they had seen? This is normal end product solution thinking! However, the staff knew they had to start a few steps back on the Action Learning Cycle. Not only because there may be alternatives to just finding money as the solution to a specific project achievement, but the teachers knew that 'ako' with the children and parent community is the real key to engagement and maintaining any project.



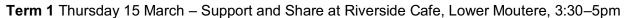
So identifying how the sun already works in the Kindergarten was the best way to start their inquiry learning to lead to action. You can imagine all of the activities and experiments the teachers did to help children and themselves gain experiences with temperatures and the power of the sun. After all, solar power is natural not just something that is technologically derived. Children's questions then led to internet investigations and the first project was to make and use a solar oven, at no cost.



How to grow plants in winter led to exploring similar alternatives of what others had done and experimenting with designs led to a bottle growing house as the next project. By also bringing the community on board, it again has been a successful learning outcomes solar-powered project with little cost. Next step is to investigate water conservation and warming water for the growing house. The teachers can envisage that by the end of 2012, Greenwood will be even more solar powered in a way they would never have imagined was possible when they initially wanted instant solutions.

Enviroschools Calendar

Tasman Support and Share gatherings are for any teacher (primary, secondary and early childhood) wanting to network and feel empowered around their 'educating for sustainability' process with fellow teachers and environmental educators.



Term 2 Thursday 24 May – Support and Share at Jellyfish Cafe, Mapua wharf, 3:30 – 5pm

Term 3 Thursday 13 September – Tasman-Nelson: Support and Share at Miles of Food cafe, Richmond 3:30 – 5pm

Term 4 Thursday 22 November - Support and Share at Riverside Cafe, Lower Moutere, 3:30 – 5pm **Nelson cluster meetings** 21st March – funding focus,

23 May - Matariki focus,

22 August regional hui focus, 1

4 November – regional reflection focus.

Please contact Lindsey Fish on ph 035445302 lindseyfish@xtra.co.nz /enviroschools@ncc.govt.nz for more information

Enviroschools Early Years Cluster

Nelson welcomes Hira, Grove St, Auckland point, Tahunanui, Nayland and Nelson South Kindergartens to the Enviroschools programme.

The cluster meetings will provide opportunities to network, gain collegial support and innovative ideas, and explore the enviroschools tools and problem solving with sustainability thinking.

Wednesday 7 March, 3-4:30pm: Full regional cluster meeting

Term 2: Wednesday 16 May, 5:30 – 7 pm: **Nelson-Richmond cluster**

Friday 18 May, 2:30 – 4pm: Golden Bay-Motueka cluster

Term 3: Wednesday 8 August 2:30 – 4pm: **Motueka-Golden Bay cluster**

Friday 10 August 3-4:30 or 5:30 – 7pm: **Richmond-Nelson cluster**

Friday 21 September 3-4:30pm: Lead teachers - Reflection process

Term 4: Wednesday 28 November 3-5pm: Full cluster for sharing and next steps

Facilitation is also available for each school or centre with Adie and Claire in Tasman.

- 1. Support for lead teachers as required
- 2 For waste audit using Measuring Change
- 3 For parent evenings on sustainable living 4 Reflection process for all levels
- Inquiries as required 6 Support for action projects your enviroschools' facilitator can support with planning any environmental theme or project, with students if required: growing, soils/geology, waste minimisation and resource use, water conservation and storm water, waterways - quality, wetlands/estuary ecosystems, coastal/marine, biodiversity - plant/animal, energy use, climate/atmosphere/air, sustainable transport, environmental building design and of course, sustainability.

National Enviroschools Update

The Enviroschools Foundation chose to celebrate their 10th anniversary of going nationwide with a dinner at the New Zealand Association of Environmental Educators Conference held in Hamilton in January.

Associate Education Minister and Maori Party Co-leader Dr Pita Sharples congratulated the Enviroschools Foundation, and all its support partners, for carrying on their work.

"The idea that our relationships with the natural environment guide our attitudes and behaviour, and frame the way we educate our children, is a very Māori perspective - one we share with indigenous peoples around the world," said Dr Sharples.

He said a Māori world view means "environmental consciousness influences everything we do. So the environment is not 'out there', an 'issue' that we can choose to engage in or not. It is part of us, and part of our families, and we are part of the environment".

Dr Sharples said he saw the philosophy of Enviroschools aligning closely with that of kura kaupapa Māori, and the two supporting each other strongly.

The new Government has agreed with our advocacy to "reinstate government funding to Enviroschools and Kura Taiao".



National Enviroschools Update continued

Outlook for Someday

Check out the winning students' five minutes films about sustainability on "Outlook for Someday" http://www.theoutlookforsomeday.net/winning-films/. They are available as individual films to watch or you can purchase the top 20 films on a DVD. They are awesome and the quality of the filming is improving every year. We would really encourage your students to give it a go this year, because we have invited the Outlook for Someday crew to give a workshop in Nelson/Tasman on making quality videos. More details later about when and where.

Enviroschools Discovery Bus Tour

A successful year for Enviroschools in the Nelson and Tasman Bays region was celebrated with a visit to two Tasman enviroschools. This was also part of the Enviroschools Foundation 10th birthday celebrations.

At the end of Term 4, a bus tour was organized to take Envirogroups from Nelson and Tasman including Golden Bay, to visit Ngatimoti and Tasman Schools. We were thrilled to be able to provide the exciting opportunity for the Envirogroups and their teachers to link up, make new friends and stimulate new ideas for 2012. Not a minute of the awesome day was wasted, starting with an environmental quiz on the bus to get the young people to observe their surroundings during the journey, and to encourage them to think sustainably.



First stop was Ngatimoti School, a leader in Environmental Education in the region, having been an Enviroschool since 2002 and now a Green-Gold Enviroschool. After being treated with a look at many exciting environmental initiatives, the school made the most of so many hands to help with their adopted stream conservation action project.

Enviroschools

The Envirogroups were also really interested to participate in their stream monitoring project. Ngatimoti students regularly gather data from this and other projects to upload to the GLOBE (global learning observations to benefit the environment) international network.

After a delicious morning tea provided by Mother Earth, we moved on to Tasman School where we had an amazing welcome. Again it was wonderful to take away ideas but also give something back and really get a hands-on feel for their environmental projects.

The day was not over before each student was given a bead necklace, carrying a positive word of their choice, as a memento of the day and to remind them of their environmental ideas for the future.

A huge thank you goes to the staff and pupils at Ngatimoti and Tasman Schools. Thanks also to the parents and tireless efforts of the teachers who support the Enviroschools programme in each school and found the time to accompany the children at a busy time of the year.

Participating enviroschools: Nayland, Victory, Clifton Terrace, Tahunanui, Hampden Street, Salisbury, Lake Rotoiti, Parklands, Ngatimoti, Tasman, Motupipi, Central Takaka and Takaka Primary. Lindsey Fish





The next round for the WWF's Environmental Education Action Fund closes at 5pm, Tuesday 2nd April.

All schools and community groups are invited to apply for grants to cover costs for action projects that address a local environmental issue.

For information about the fund and how to apply go to the WWF website: http://www.wwf.org.nz/what we do/community funding/funding for schools/

A message from Roger Waddell:

I have left my role as Conservation Educator at Natureland Zoo to take up a position at NMIT as the Education Partnerships and Schools Advisor.

So I would like to take this opportunity to thank you all for your interest in furthering your students' learning at Natureland. As a teacher I am still amazed at the education possibilities through this incredible facility that we are blessed to have in Nelson. Whether it has been delivering art education, puppeteering, classification, survival, native animal conservation and threats, tuatara conservation with Ngati Koata, animal welfare, bird/primate adaptations, technology of enclosure design, pet days, experiential games, special needs/social skills etc, it has been an absolute pleasure to have worked here. We have world-class zookeepers and world-class exhibits for your LEOTC needs.

Please continue to patronise the zoo. I have overseen a 55% increase in school attendance here in 2011and I look forward to the next Educator adding to what I have done. So keep booking zoo education sessions! Kind regards and have a great year! Roger Waddell."

Do you know how to have an input into the vision for Tasman District?

Offer: Workshops with students at Step One understanding and contribution to the local political world – Tasman District Council's Long term Plan.

Every three years the Council is required to develop a Long Term Plan that has a **ten year vision** – a lot happens in ten years including anyone over 8 years old becoming eligible to vote. Knowing how the local democratic system works is beneficial to being a good citizen.

Whatever the age, any local can have an input into submitting to the Long Term plan and vision, when the draft comes out in March.

Adie is willing to work with your students to provide an understanding of what the Tasman District Council Long Term Plan entails and to help them have a voice for their future.

Our Green Road Trip

Emma Heke and her 7 year old son are travelling around Aotearoa filming 70 families with environmentally sustainable businesses and lifestyles. They're showcasing the diversity of ways people are living and doing business, that don't wreck the planet! They are on the road until April.

Follow their journey on www.facebook.com/OurGreenRoadie. Connor (7 yrs old) takes 95% of the photos



(while as Emma is filming). We homeschool and our journey is providing rich experiences for him. Their aim is to change mainstream thinking about being environmentally responsible and to challenge, inspire and empower people to make changes by showing them all the 'normal kiwi families' already doing it. Watch out for future films, TV series and DVDs.

Email: info@oursdvd.co.nz
Website: www.oursdvd.co.nz

FB Page: http://www.facebook.com/OurGreenRoadie

Schoolgen – competition plus help get solar panels on schools here!

Are you trying to reduce the power consumption at your school? Schoolgen, www.schoolgen.co.nz is a website that can help, sponsored by Genesis Energy. It has 40 teaching resources, free for any primary, intermediate or secondary school in New Zealand to use and linked to the NZ curriculum, that explore electricity generation, climate change, and renewable energy, in particular, solar energy and photovoltaic (PV) systems. There is also a wonderful game for students to develop a Climate friendly city under teacher resources.

Now we would like to entice Genesis Energy to sponsor solar panels in Tasman and Nelson Schools. So your school could help persuade them that we value this possibility by entering their competition below, and developing a relationship with them through using the SchoolGen website.

Mean Green House Competition 2012 - Are your students the great sustainable architects of the future?

The competition is open to all Year 5 to Year 10 students in New Zealand in three divisions: Primary Year 5-6, Intermediate Year 7-8, Secondary Year 9-10.

The competition opens on the 1st of February and closes on the 1st of October 2012.

Winning teams will be announced on the 10th of November.

Kids Edible Gardens in Schools 2012

This year we welcome 3 new schools to the Kids Edible Garden Programme: Hampden Street School, Stoke School, and our first intermediate school; Nelson Intermediate. We are delighted that KEGS will also continue at Tahunanui, Auckland Point and Victory Schools as it has done now for a number of years.



A facilitator training kit has been designed and we also welcome our new facilitators who will be working with pupils in the gardens to teach organic gardening skills. It's great to have you in the programme and we look



forward to working with you. In addition we are excited to provide cooking resources and workshops with a professional chef for our facilitators this year. Last year we developed some new resources for teachers to use to make curriculum links from the garden to the classroom and 2012 will see some more initiatives with a pilot scheme working with teachers to develop some KEGS resources in line with national Standards. In addition to this we hope to support other self-facilitated schools to provide the KEGS Programme.

Lindsey Fish <u>lindseyfish@nec.org.nz</u>

Sea Week 2012 runs from 3 to 11 March. Photography Competition





We want to see your best snaps of the sea.

The theme is: One Ocean - Too Much Love? Turning the Tide.

The 2012 theme explores the wide variety of different uses, passions and expectations of the sea and their conflicts and impacts now and into the future. Cawthron is planning a number of activities throughout Sea Week including an online photo competition with incredible prizes!

The competition is **open to everyone** from the Nelson Tasman district and full conditions will be on the Facebook page.

There are four categories: Family Fun; Ocean Life; Turning the Tide and a **Children's Category (13 yrs and under)**. Entry is free and there are some great prizes up for grabs including scuba diving, boat trips, books and swimming gear.

For more information go to the **Friends of Cawthron Facebook page** or contact Jo Thompson at <u>jo.thompson@cawthron.org.nz</u>.

Waste Education Services (WES)

Get your creative juices flowing!

WES schools and Small Planet are adding a new focus to their programmes this year—*CREATIVITY*, aiming to change people's perceptions about 'what is waste', encouraging people to think "this is a valuable resource", rather than "which bin



do we throw this into?". Our schools have come a long way on their journeys towards a zerowaste future, and it's time to celebrate and make a big splash! Three new projects will help achieve this:

The HyperWaste Art Expo: Creating Out Of This World art from waste

A public display of art and sculpture using reused/recycled materials created by school and ECE students is scheduled for 18–22 June in Nelson (details to be confirmed). To support teachers, curriculum materials will be available.

New art and craft materials exchange

Early childhood education centres on the Small Planet programme last year requested we set up an exchange for arts and crafts materials. Now, a small house at Nelson Environment Centre is cleaned and ready to receive materials suitable for exchange. The exchange day will be the third Wednesday of each month at 3-5pm, with 22 Feb the starting date. Initially for early childhood centres, we hope to extend membership to other interested parties as soon as we are fully established. A \$15 per year membership fee applies. We welcome any spare shelves, great materials and enthusiasm!



Art materials (Remida DAY: changing minds)

Art Gallery at Nelson Reuse and Recycle Centre (NRRC)

Show off your talents to the wider community!

A large wall display area at Nelson Reuse and Recycle Centre (NRRC) is being prepared to showcase recycled art from schools and ECEs. Nelson Environment Centre's Braemar site also welcomes art and sculptures from reused/recycled materials, both for our gardens and indoor areas.

For more details on any of the art projects, or for any other waste-related education,

contact Sarah Langi sarahlangi@nec.org.nz; ph: 545 9176 ext 1.

Reminder – please drop off empty clean transparent plastic fizzy drink bottles to the Nelson Environment Centre – they need more to build their plastic bottle greenhouse.

Tasman Zero Waste Grants for Schools & Early Childhood

Do you have a great idea that could reduce waste?

Tasman District Council's Zero Waste Grants may be able to help you put it into practice. Zero Waste Grants are available to all schools and early childhood education centres in the Tasman District to help promote waste reduction ideas and projects and/or educate others about the importance of reducing waste. Funding is available to help you set up projects that reduce the amount of waste they produce such as the purchase of collection bins, compost or worm farm bins or develop educational material on waste minimization. Funding cannot be used for buying plants or gardening equipment. This is a contestable fund.

Please note grants are not available for schools and early childhood education centres working in the Nelson area.

Closing Dates for Applications

- For funding requests of \$1000 or more closing date Mon 26 March 2012
- For funding requests of \$999 or less two closing dates
 - Mon 19 March 2012 (end of Term 1)
 - Mon 17 Sept 2012 (end of Term 3)

Contact Waste Education Services for further information about the Zero Waste Grant fund or an application form on 03 545 9176 or email info@wes.org.nz

Information can also be downloaded from www.wes.org.nz



Energy in Schools programme: an update

Currently Nelson Environment Centre is piloting the *Energy in Schools* Programme with two colleges in Nelson, working together with the Nelson Enviroschools team and financed by Canterbury Community Trust. The programme aims to help schools reduce their energy consumption and become more energy-efficient; at the same time saving large amounts of money that can be used for other operational school projects.

The current funding round finishes in March and, if the funding requested for 2012 goes ahead, we hope to expand the programme to other secondary and intermediate schools across the region in 2012 and, in 2013, further extend it to primary schools.

To register your interest or find out more, please contact: Sarah Langi, Energy in Schools programme coordinator

New schools programme on electronic waste

E-waste has been named "the largest toxic waste problem of the 21st century" Environmental Health Perspectives 110(4). RCN e-Cycle has developed an education programme for schools on e-waste to accompany its national e-waste recycling scheme. The programme resources include a behaviour change guide, designed to assist schools and communities to recycle their e-waste responsibly



and ethically, and three curriculum unit plans for primary, intermediate and secondary students. These resources will be available for schools in March/April and will be free to download from the RCN website www.e-cycle.co.nz.

For more details, contact Sarah Langi on 545 9176 ext 1

'WORTHY WEEDBUSTERS' SOUGHT FOR REGIONAL AWARDS

Weedbusters NZ is calling for groups, organisations, schools and individuals tackling weed issues in their communities to be nominated for the 2012 Regional Weedbusters Awards being run throughout New Zealand. The awards recognise the efforts of those who get stuck in and deal with weed issues in their communities in a voluntary capacity.

There are five categories for the Weedbusters awards, all recognising weedbusting efforts:

			nd

☐ private land

☐ industry/organisation

□ education

□ overall excellence chosen from the previous four categories.

Anyone can put forward nominations for these awards, even the weedbusters themselves! **Nominations are open until 31 March 2012**, and can be made online at www.weedbusters.org.nz.

Websites well worth a visit -

<u>www.projectjonah.org.nz/Teacher+Resources.html</u> – whale information and a free whale teacher's resource kit to order.

<u>www.ourfarsouth.org</u> - follow the journey from Stewart Island to Antarctica and enter the school competition.

Earth Hour is coming up - Saturday March 31 - www.earthhour.org.

The Science learning hub <u>www.sciencelearn.org.nz/</u> is huge! Amazing resources free and New Zealand focused.

<u>www.serenataflowers.com/Flowers-plants-and-gardening-for-kids</u> has a very useful list of links to interactive sites for kids all about plants.

<u>www.monarch.org.nz/monarch/projects/butterfly-gardening-course/</u> - register before 20 Feb, next course 1 March 2012.

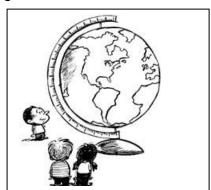
Activity One: A sustainability focus to start the year with your class

- 1) Have a conversation about what things we have in abundance that we can be glad about laughter, flowers, caring, lawns to play on, effort, warm weather(at the moment), helpfulness, water in the school pool, respect?
- 2) Then have a conversation about what things are important but not so abundant, (some things like food and love may seem abundant to the most of the class but not all so take care) if there are differing views it may inspire some sharing too. This could have local, national and global view too.
- 3) Then a third conversation could be about what we have that we value that there is not so much of. How can we go about looking after it so we can keep enjoying it?
- 4) Brainstorm a big list of all the small actions the class can take to be more environmentally friendly/sustainability focused. Things like using cloth bags not plastic bags, turning off lights switches ... This could all be framed as how we show respect and value for having these things rather than we must deprive ourselves. Keeping it positive and fun will help students want to be involved. If I turn the water tap off while I brush my teeth because I value the water and want others to be able to have it too it feels very different to turning the tap off because it's a rule I have to or because I'm scared about how much water there is.

Offering different topics may help the brainstorm: food, shopping, transport, waste, water, energy, gardening, clothing, paper, plastic, kitchen, pets, classroom, parents, socializing, heating, art, biodiversity, relax-time, holidays, night-time, waterways, weather, wildlife, buildings, rubbish ...







- 5) You may want to divide up the brainstorm results into whole class or individual actions and in or out of school.
- 6) Rank them as to how important or easy to do or level of class keenness?
- 7) Have each student use the big list to write their own list of actions they already regularly do.
- 8) Now for 2012 they can choose to add to their list how many are possible? Which ones are school based and which are out of school?
- 9) Set a date of when you will all revisit the lists to see who has successfully taken up some new habits? 2 weeks then 4 weeks after might to useful timeframes.
- 10) How can you celebrate the successes and refocus those that need/want more support? Would buddies help?
- 11) An easy next step would be to develop a classroom care code things everyone agrees to do that are about caring for all themselves, each other, you, equipment, the natural world and the planet.



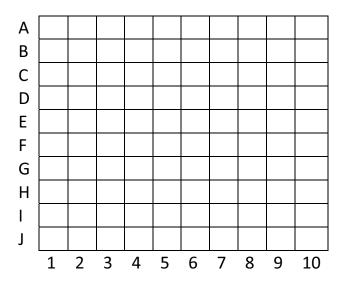


Activity 2: The Great Bug Munch game

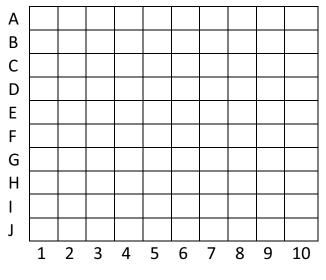




Grid 1 - Where My own Bugs are Hiding!



Grid 2 - Where is my lunch hiding?? (You are the Hungry Bird)





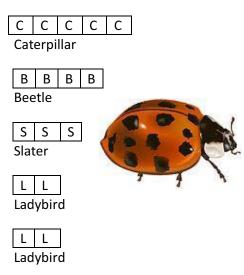


Instructions (2 Players required each with their own sheet that they keep out of view from the other player):

- Both players place their bugs on the 'Where My Bugs are Hiding' grid using the letters for each bug type.
- One Player calls out a position
 (i.e. G-6). The other player says either
 "Peck" or "Miss" depending upon
 whether one of their bugs is in the
 position called out. The person calling
 out should mark a peck (p) or a miss
 (m) on the "Where is my Lunch
 Hiding" grid to keep track of where
 bugs are hiding. The other person
 should mark the turn on their "Where
 My Bugs are Hiding" grid. If the turn is
 a "Peck", the player goes again—
 otherwise the other player takes a turn.
- Once the opposing player has scored a "peck" on all of the spaces for a particular bug, you must call out "Peck

 – you have eaten my Ladybird"(or whatever type of bug it was). Once a player has eaten all the opponents bugs, they are declared the winner.

Put the following Bugs on your 'where my bugs are hiding' grid by placing the appropriate letters -- horizontally, vertically or diagonally.



Activity 3 – by Joseph Cornell – www.sharingnature.com

Awaken Enthusiasm

Owls & Crows

- A. Awaken Enthusiasm (Flow Learning Stage)
- B. Review of concept (The concepts, attitudes and qualities it teaches)
- C. Day / clearing or road (When and where to play)
- D. 6 or more (Number of players needed)
- E. 5-13 years (Best age range)
- F. Rope, 2 blindfolds (of different colour) (Special materials needed, if any)

This is an excellent game for reviewing newly learned concepts.

Divide the group into two equal teams, the Owls and the Crows. Have the teams line up facing each other about four feet apart, place a rope between them. About 15 feet behind each team, place a blindfold which designates Home Base.

The leader makes a statement aloud, and if the statement is true the Owls chase the Crows, trying to catch them before they reach their Home Base. If the statement is false, the Crows chase the Owls. Anyone caught must join the other team. Before you begin, practice by giving a few easy statements, and asking the players to just point to where they'll run.

Since the players will be continually changing sides, it's helpful to mark clearly the way to run if the statement's true or false. You can use a blue bandanna to signify the true direction - "true blue" and a red one to show false. Or you can use signs or natural features and say something like "true tree" or "false fence."



If the answer isn't obvious to the players, or they forget which way to run, you'll get some of the Owls and Crows running toward each other, and others running back to their Home Bases. During the pandemonium, the leader should remain silent and neutral. When the action has calmed down, you can reveal the correct answer.

Your statements, however, should be as precise and accurate as possible for the age and experience of the players. For example, if you say the sun rises in the east, would that be true? For younger children it might be. But older students probably know that it is the earth's rotation that makes it appear that the sun is rising.

Here are some sample statements:

Sensory: "The wind is coming from behind the Crows."

Conceptual: "A deciduous tree keeps its leaves all year long."

Observational: (after showing them a leaf) "The leaf had five points and five veins."

Identification: "This seed comes from an oak tree."

Other statements you might want to use are: warm air rises; habitat means where a plant or animal lives; birds have teeth; and, ducks, turtles and squirrels are warm-blooded.

This exercise is obviously American but could easily be adapted to have a local flavor – so go ahead and make it your own!