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ECOLOGY ACTIVITIES IN SCHOOL

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To create awareness about the importance of a healthy environment and to safeguard the earth, Eco day or simply Environment Day is observed every week on Wednesday as a house activity in our school. Students from all the four houses along with their house moderators organise activities that focus on educating the school on environmental hazards and their restoration.

In the words of the Principal of the school, Sister Lizy, ecological education through house activities provides the right tools that students can incorporate to solve and prevent environmental problems. Speeches, Skits, Lectures and programmes on environmental education can help the students to gain the knowledge, skills, motivations, values and commitment they need to efficiently manage their earth's resources and take responsibility for maintaining environmental quality.

Environmental education through student activities also empowers students to solve the climate crisis and develop the skills to resolve environmental issues of today and tomorrow.

Creating environmental awareness has always been one of the major focal points of our school. As a part of the Eco-day held every Wednesday our students develop and participate in numerous 'green activities'.

Some environment initiatives taken up by the students of St Joseph's Higher Secondary School :

THEY REALLY NEED US
Guest lecture on saving birds in summer

STUDENTS DEMONSTRATE USE OF MITTICOOL REFRIGERATOR
Minimising wastage of electricity

RECREATING FORESTS THROUGH SEEDBALLS

GREEN CORNER

FELICITATION OF SCHOOL WORKERS BY THE STUDENTS
Cleanliness drive begins at school

USE OF TERACOTTA AND EARTHEN POTS

ZERO WASTE CONTAINERS
Creating consciousness for biodegradable products

THEY REALLY NEED US

Guest lecture on saving birds in summer

Students of Red house organised a programme on 'Animal War Heroes' where they displayed placards and spoke on animals who have done exemplary service to mankind by saving thousands of lives during World war I. Raising concern for '**City Birds**' who die in large numbers during the unbearable summer heat in Odisha, they invited the Young Environmentalist **Mr. Subhransu Kumar Satpathy** to address the students on protecting birds during summer. Mr. Subhransu has been titled as '**Odisha's Birdman**' by our Hon'ble Governor Shri Ganeshi Lal.

He Started an initiative named "They Really Need Us" with a motto to save thirsty birds in summer. He has arranged workshops in Academic institutes, societies & many more places demonstrating how a small water pot can save a little creature's life. Till today he has distributed more than 30,000 Water Pots in Education Institutions & Individuals. He educated the students to keep water in small earthen pots on terraces and rooftops for birds to come and drink. When they are thirsty there's no one to give them a glass of water so we must serve the purpose, he urged the students.



RECREATING FORESTS THROUGH SEEDBALLS

Another initiative started by him is named '**Greener Planet**' where he conducts workshops on **Seed Ball Making** in various schools & other institutions. since 2011 he has created & thrown more than 1 lakh seed balls in various places in Odisha & outside also. The purpose of this is to create natural forests without physically going and planting trees. Mr. Subhranshu gave a live demonstration to the students on how to re-create forests using seedballs. He also told students how seedballs are thrown in uninhabitable lands using drones. As a token of gratitude, he gifted seedballs to our Principal.

FELICITATION OF SCHOOL WORKERS

BY THE STUDENTS

Cleanliness drive begins at school

The sanitation workers of our school have always given their best to clean up our surroundings. They ensure that students return to a healthy environment, every morning. Realising the efforts, they take to upkeep the environment, the Red house students invited some of the workers on stage. Addressing them as 'Aunties' each of them was given a shawl and a rose by the student leaders. They were overwhelmed at the true recognition of their hard work as biodegradable products at home.



ZERO WASTE CONTAINERS

Creating consciousness for biodegradable products

In another show, students of Yellow house gave demonstration of re-using fruit rinds as bowls to serve fruit salads and ice-creams instead of throwing them away. They demonstrated how the rind of citrus fruits and water melon can be re-used to serve juice apart from the edible fruit itself. Students were made aware that this idea has already been implemented by an IT Engineer in Bangalore. The house also encouraged the students to use Zero Waste Containers as well as biodegradable products at home.



STUDENTS DEMONSTRATE USE OF MITTICOOL REFRIGERATOR

Minimising wastage of electricity

In another initiative taken on Eco-day, students created awareness on the use of 'Mitticool', a natural refrigerator made entirely from clay to store vegetables, fruits and also for cooling water. It provides natural coolness to the stored materials without requiring any electricity or any other artificial form of energy. Fruits, vegetables and milk can be stored fresh without deteriorating their quality. This fridge operates on the principle of evaporation causes cooling.

GREEN CORNER



Students of our school have also put up a 'Green Corner' where students are encouraged to donate plants to school and to beautify our garden. Many varieties of decorative plants have been gifted to the school by students. The Green Corner also looks resplendent to the eyes.

USE OF TERACOTTA AND EARTHEN POTS

Students demonstrated how healthy it can be to use earthen utensils that are not only environment friendly but also biodegradable. Earthen glasses, spoons and bowls can be used at home while serving guests. Students learnt that Clay is alkaline in nature hence it interacts with the acidity of food and neutralises the pH balance. So students learnt that using earthen utensils is extremely healthy.



LOOKING AHEAD

Chalk and talk method of upgrading students' knowledge and bringing their attention to the serious environmental hazards faced by their generation is outdated. Realising this, our school focusses primarily on giving hands-on demonstration on eco-day conducted every week. Educating the students through various student-based activities on protecting and valuing the world around them ensures that our children grow up to be individuals who are sensitive to the environment and carry with them the message that scientific development must go hand in hand with action safeguarding the environment.



St Joseph's Higher Secondary School