

Environmentally Conscious Students

Central Quebec School Board - La Tuque High School CLC, La Tuque QC



The elementary students at La Tuque High School entered the [EcoKids](#) Battery Busters: Waste Reduction Week Contest. Working in collaboration with [Call 2 Recycle](#) they mounted a campaign to collect as many batteries as they could for recycling. If they win, the prize would help support future environmental initiatives at their school.

They spread the word on Facebook and the local newspaper wrote an article about the project. That elicited many donations of old batteries not only from the students and families, but from the community and local businesses. It even peaked the interest of the municipality of La Tuque and Hydro Quebec who donated many of their batteries.

“It’s a good thing to recycle batteries, because it helps the earth and I’m very interested in helping the earth.” Tyler, student

“It was fun to collect batteries and sort them with the school.” - Joanie, student

So far the students have amassed close to 400 kilograms of batteries.

The students who took part in this school-wide project all reported that they felt they were making a difference in their community by working to recycle batteries. Much of the work was done during their spare time, on lunch hours and after school.

Michelle Reed, the teacher leading the initiative, indicated that this project contributed to increased student engagement in not only the school community but also in the community at large. “Any project in which students gain a sense of belonging to the community, a sense of purpose and accomplishment, directly contributes to student success. “

Through this process, the students learned what a battery is made of, the differences between alkaline, lithium and NiCad, and their corresponding toxicity levels. The recycling project gave the students a sense of having made a difference in the local ecology, saving those batteries from the land fill.

“I learned how to spot a bad battery.” Xavier, student

“I learned the differences between alkaline, lithium and NiCad batteries.” Kylan, student