

GET INVOLVED

Facts about recycling

By Farah Jaffar
HERITAGE ELEMENTARY

People in the United States throw away \$11.14 billion of recyclable goods and packages every year.

In the United States, people throw away 2.5 million plastic bottles every hour.

Each piece of material you recycle makes a positive impact on the environment, because that is one less piece of material that is in a landfill or litter.

Recycling 1 ton of paper saves 7000 gallons of water. Also, each ton of recycled paper can save 17 trees.

What happens to glass when it is recycled

By Khizar Saeed
HERITAGE ELEMENTARY

1. First, glass is separated from other items.
2. Then, the glass is crushed into tiny pieces.
3. Next, the glass is melted down at 1700 degrees.
4. The melted glass gets poured into molds to make new products.

Never put these items down the drain

By Oscar Jaimes Reyna
HERITAGE ELEMENTARY

- Cooking oil/ Fats
- Flour
- Paper towel
- Garbage
- Grease
- Plastic
- Potato peels
- Glue
- Honey
- Egg shells

BASINS

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Lodi. He took a bus of city officials from Lodi to the city mentioned in the article to see the water basins there. When they came back, he was into the idea. Soon, the first water basin was being dug.

After the success of the first water basin, they decided to build many more to prevent the flooding from happening again. Thanks to Mrs. Costa, Mayor Katnich, the Lodi City Council and Lodi Public Works for making the water basins possible and keeping our city from flooding for future generations, as well as giving us sports parks.

WATER

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Student 6: Five to 10 minutes.

Me: OK, do you leave the water running while brushing your teeth?

Student 6: No.

Me: Alright, thank you for your time.

Me: Hi, Student 7, the last one! How long are you on average in the shower?

Student 7: Fifteen to 30 minutes.

Me: Alright, do you leave the water running while brushing your teeth?

Student 7: Yes I do.

Me: OK, thank you for your time!

In conclusion, most people do not leave the sink on, wasting water, but it was nearly equal for wasting water in the shower by taking too long.

How much time do you spend?

Earthkeepers save the world, and you can, too

By Audrina Epperson
HERITAGE ELEMENTARY

Lots of schools probably have after school programs such as running club, tutoring, and Bridge. But do they have Earthkeepers?

Earthkeepers is a club where kids have the opportunity to help clean our environment. In Earthkeepers you will help keep your school clean.

First of all, we pick up trash with grabbers. We pick up trash around the blacktop, playground, and field. Also we sweep the gutters to get leaves and trash out to prevent them from getting into the storm drain. If the trash were to go in the drain, it would pollute the river.

Second, it gives students something to do in their spare time. Instead of play-

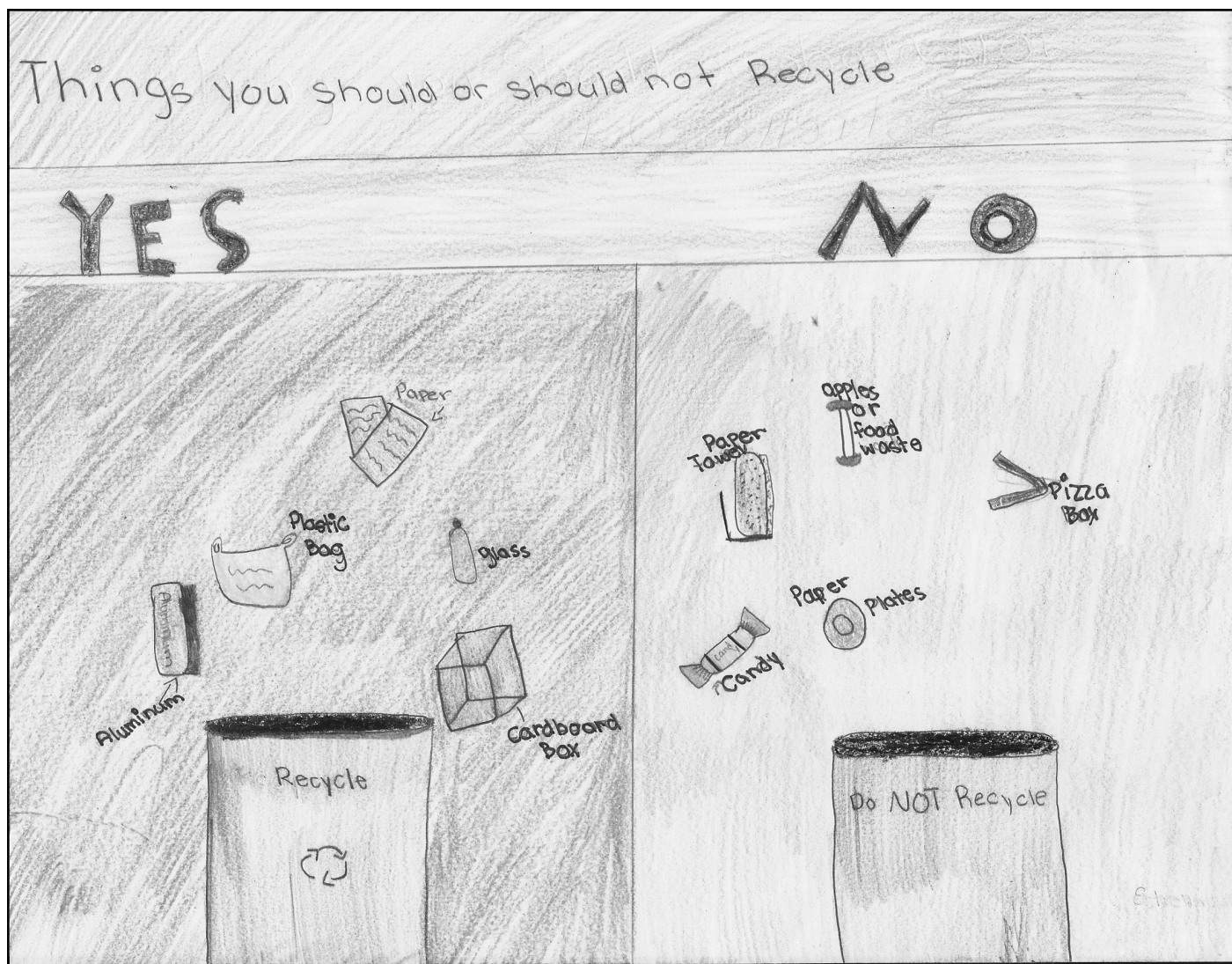
ing "Fortnite," you could be helping pick up trash. Also, if you don't have enough time in the day to talk to teachers, Earthkeepers gives you that time!

Earthkeepers helps the community. We stop trash from getting into the storm drain and polluting the river. So, if you have tutoring and running club, maybe you might consider adding an Earthkeepers!

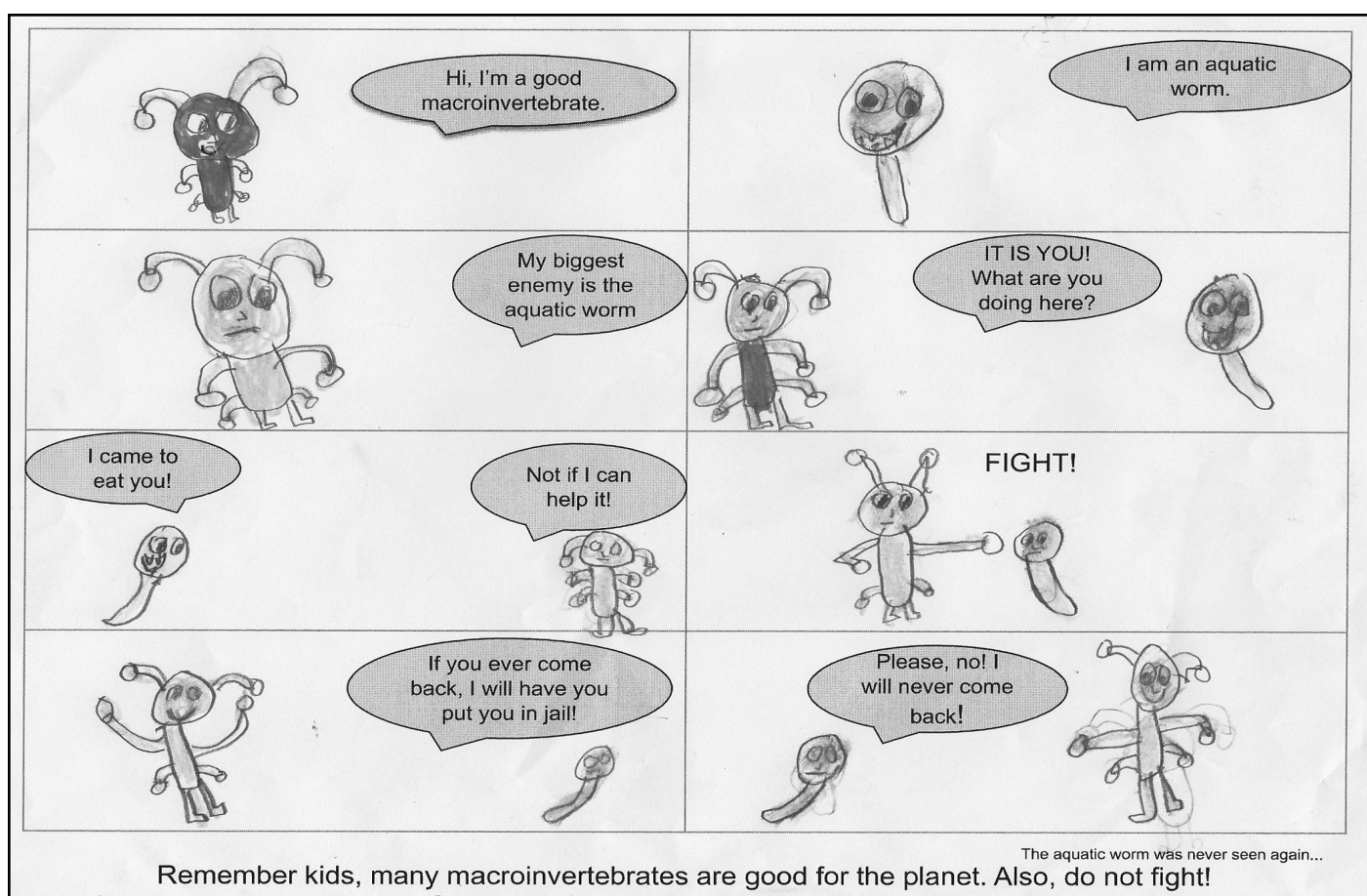
EARTHKEEPERS DATA FOR 2018-19

Here is a by-the-numbers summary of what the Earthkeepers of Heritage Elementary School have done this year:

- 15 Earthkeeper afterschool cleanup days
- 94 buckets of trash
- 1 large box of leaves/trash
- 26 small bags of trash/gutter litter
- 26 of the 30 gallon bags of trash/leaf litter
- Average of 12 students participating each day



ESTRELLA ORTIZ/HERITAGE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL



OSCAR JAIMES/HERITAGE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

COTULLA

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Q: What were the least rewarding?

A: The least rewarding part of my job was dealing with elected officials and politicians who often did not understand the reasons for the laws and regulations my agency was requiring businesses and individuals to comply with, or disagreed with the requirements.

Q: Do you do anything to try to support our environment?

A: As an individual, I try to do everything I can to minimize my impact on the environment. When I was working, I rode the bus from Lodi to Stockton everyday. I use drip irrigation in my yard. I recycle and use non disposable containers as much as possible. I try to choose sustainable and nontoxic products and materials.

Q: Did anything in particular inspire you to help our environment?

A: I was particularly inspired by my mother who was a teacher and a naturalist. She

taught me about native plants and animals, and helped me appreciate the world around me.

Q: What is your favorite part about the Mokelumne River?

A: We are extremely fortunate to live near such a pristine river. The Mokelumne is relatively free from contamination and actually helps replenish groundwater supplies in our area.

Q: Are there any interesting stories that influenced you to work helping the Earth?

A: As I mentioned, my mom was a naturalist and spent many of her summers hiking in the Sierra Nevada and the Rocky Mountains. So her stories fascinated me. And, as a teenager, my aunt gave me a copy of "Silent Spring" by Rachel Carson, which made me realize action needed to be taken to protect nature.

Q: Who are some of your personal heroes, and why?

A: My personal heroes are Marie Curie who was the first woman to win a Nobel Prize, and is the only person to have won Nobel Prizes in two different disciplines; one in physics for her work with ra-

dioactivity and the discovery of X-rays, and one in chemistry for discovering the chemical element polonium.

Another hero of mine is Nelson Mandela, who led the effort to overturn apartheid in South Africa. He was imprisoned for 27 years, but continued to support the movement to end racial segregation and oppression of black people in the country even while in prison. He was finally released from prison and became the first black president of South Africa.

I also greatly admired Nelson Mandela's friend and co-leader of the anti-apartheid movement Bishop Desmond Tutu. He led the Truth and Reconciliation Commission after Mr. Mandela was released, which sought to have black people who were abused and oppressed by white police face each other and forgive each other.

Q: What are some of your future plans for helping the environment?

A: I will continue to do as much as I can to minimize my personal impact on the environment. I firmly believe that the actions of each individual can make a difference.

All of the following questions came about after the stu-

dents saw a picture of the water tower:

Q: Why do they store water in a tower and not something else?

A: The water tower helps stabilize pressure throughout the water system by providing a steady supply of water when there are heavy demands, like when people are taking showers in the morning going to work or school. Without that supply, individual pumps would have to go on and off to keep up with demand. Another reason is that it can maintain water pressure in the system when the electricity goes out. It also enhances the pressure and supply when there is a fire.

Q: Was that tower always used to store water?

A: Yes. It would not be safe to store any other substance in the tower.

Q: Why is the water tower in that location?

A: It is close to where the old tower was, so it was easy to connect to the water system, and the city already owned the property.

Q: Is there only one water tower in Lodi?

A: Yes, there is only one water tower on the public water system.

Q: How much water can the tower hold?

A: I am not sure, but it may be around 1 million gallons.

Q: What happens inside the water tower?

A: Nothing really, just the water from close wells is pumped up into the tower, then it flows out when needed.

Q: Where does the water come from that is in the tower?

A: From wells primarily, although water from the surface water treatment facility could be pumped in as well.

Q: Who controls how the water gets in the tower?

A: The City of Lodi Water Utility.

Q: Why is the water tower shaped like that?

A: That shape is one of the designs available for water towers, and the City chose that design because it looks like a wine glass.

What Storm Drain Detectives has done for me

By Jasmine Owens
LODI HIGH SCHOOL

Ever since I was a little girl, my parents told me, "Jasmine, you can pick any college you want, but you will go to college."

So, I had always prepared myself to attend college. Me not wanting to go to college was never a worry for my parents, because it's evident that college is the gateway to a successful life. Since I knew I wanted to go to college, it boiled down to a matter of what I wanted to do in my life.

Since I can remember I had always aspired to become a marine biologist. I love the ocean, the animals, and the environment. In the eighth grade, I even went to a marine biologist camp at Catalina, where I fell in love again.

However, over my high school time, it generalized. When I was a freshman, I attended a program called Storm Drain Detectives, where kids all across Lodi gathered to test the water quality of the runoff water that ended up in the Delta. (Hence the name Storm Drain.)

What started off as a requirement for my Honors Biology class became a new love in my life. We collected data on turbidity, dissolved oxygen, pH, temperature and the nitrogen levels year round. We put such data in a presentation given by us — the students — to the Lodi City Council annually, thus making it known of any drastic changes needed to be made to sustain our water.

Being a part of Storm Drain led me to my major of environmental studies. Something more public, political, and on the compliance side. I think this major shows promise, being how important it is to society today. Without taking part in Storm Drain Detectives, I doubt my major would be the same.

I am grateful for the program, not only because of the incredible opportunity, but for the guidance that is well needed in this chapter of my life.