

QSI International School of Bishkek
Environmental Committee Report
For the 2018-19, 2019-20, 2020-21 School Years

June 11, 2021

Members of the Environmental Committee at QSIB during 2018-2021 years included Mrs. Elnura, Ms. Lilia, Mrs. Jarkynai, Mrs. Kathy, and Mr. Kirk. Throughout these years the committee raised money, so that they could help to improve and raise student awareness of environmental issues such as recycling; neighborhood park clean-up; flower planting; and the importance of prevention of illness through hand-washing, use of hand sanitizer and supplemental use of anti-bacterial wipes on desks, chairs, and doorknobs throughout the school year.

Black and White Paper Recycling and Plastic Bottle Recycling happened throughout the school year around the school. About 220 kilos of paper have been recycled since the beginning of the school year. Thousands of plastic bottles were also recycled throughout the school-year that were subsequently used to make new plastic bottles by recycling and plastics companies.

In September 2018, we used money to purchase gloves, trash bags, and rakes for our **Neighborhood Park Cleanup at Southgate Park in October 2018**. In the course of one-hour, about 60 students and staff from 5 year-old-Secondary 4 found, gathered, and properly disposed of about 100 kilos of trash and garbage.

Starting in Fall 2018 and continuing throughout the 2020-2021 school year, we emphasized the importance of preventing illness through hand-washing and keeping classrooms cleaner. As a supplement, we also provided **Classroom Hand Sanitizer and Anti-Bacterial Wipes for desks, doorknobs, and seats** in every classroom throughout the school. Students and staff seemed to appreciate having the additional ways/options of preventing illness and sickness throughout the school.

In April 2019, we used money to purchase shovels and flower seeds for our **School and Nursing Home Flower Planting**. 5 – 11 year-old students planted flowers around the school. Twelve-year old thru Secondary 4 students planted flowers at a nearby nursing home during Week-Without-Walls. Students learned the value of gardening, how to plant, and the amount of work that is required to take care of them and to help them to grow.

In May 2020 a **Recycled Art Exhibition** was held where all students from the 5 year-old class to Secondary 2 made and displayed a Recycled Art Project as a part of their Art Class grade. The Environmental Committee strongly supports the use of recycled materials being used as a part of the Art Exhibition because it put recycled materials to good use and it teaches children about recycling at the same time it encourages them to recycle. Mrs. Elnura is to be commended for her work and her success with the Recycled Art Exhibition. She should continue to implement it for years to come.

Next year we will continue our Black and White Paper Recycling Program; Plastic Bottle Recycling; Neighborhood Park Clean-Up; Hand-Sanitizer/Anti-Bacterial Wipe Classroom Donations; Spring Planting; and Recycled Art Exhibition. We will continue to raise environmental awareness of our school community through action and results-oriented programs and ideas.

Paper Usage Statistics

Yearlong Paper Recycling and Paper Use

QSIB promotes reducing paper usage in school by reusing paper and then recycling it. Recycling containers are positioned in most classrooms and throughout the school. As it has in the past, QSIB partnered with a local company to recycle its paper.

By the end of the 2020-2021 school-year, QSIB will have recycled 220 kilograms of paper. This is compared to 370 kilograms recycled during the 2018-2019 school-year. This is a decrease of 150 kilograms; however, **overall the school population has declined approximately 30% since last school year.**

The school has used about 366 reams out of 570 total reams of paper that we had at the beginning of the 2018-2019 school year. **204 reams of paper remain as of June 11, 2019. More paper is scheduled to be ordered in January 2020.** There were 62 students at the beginning of the school year in August, which means each student used roughly 5.9 reams of paper, which is a decrease of .6 reams per student from last year where students each used the equivalent of 6.5 reams of paper. There are 500 sheets of paper in 1 ream of paper, so each student used an average of about 3,000 pieces of paper over the course of the 2018-2019 school- year. Combined the school used 366 reams x 500 pieces (in one ream) = 183,000 pieces of paper during the 2018-2019 school year. This is down from 309,000 (616 reams) pieces of paper that were used last year.

The percentage of recycled paper to used paper is about the same from when compared to last year. **In 2020-2021, we used 915 kg of paper and recycled 220 kg of black and white paper for a ratio of 4.15.** In 2018-2019, we used 1,540 kg of copy paper and recycled 370 kg of paper for a ratio of 4.16.

Supporting QSIB's Plan of Growth

All of the activities planned and sponsored by the Environmental Committee over the years were designed to promote environmental awareness and responsible, Earth-friendly habits among students and staff. They were designed to be as fun and accessible as possible. It is our hope that with this added awareness, students and staff would use less paper and change personal habits. These more Earth-friendly habits would be reflected in the ecological footprint survey results, as well as in the amount of paper used each year. In this way, all of these activities support Points A, B, and C of our Environmental Committee Action Plan.

In addition, these activities helped to support the following among Middle States Association's 12 standards:

- Standard 6: School Climate and Organization
- Standard 7: Health and Safety
- Standard 8: Educational Program
- Standard 9: Assessment and Evidence of Student Learning
- Standard 11: Student Life and Student Activities

Suggestions for Improvement for 2021-2022

Action Plan for Environmental Objective (Amended May 17, 2015)

Student Performance Objective #2:

Objective #2: Environment

By the end of June 2021, students of QSI International School of Bishkek ages 5 years through Secondary IV will demonstrate increased environmental awareness as measured by:

A. A 5% increase in the number of students practicing at least 75% of the actions on the survey, indicated by survey results at the beginning and ending of each school year. (Survey found at <https://islandwood.org/footprint-calculator/>) (Survey discontinued in 2018-2019 because the results seemed arbitrary and capricious to students and staff. The committee could not relate what the results mean or how we interpret them so students can understand them).

B. A 5% decrease in copy paper usage/student annually, measurable by total order size divided by the number of students.

C. A 5% annual increase in the percentage of recycled paper to used paper in paper weight. (Determined by bulk weight of used paper, divided by recycled paper weight times 100.)

1. Increase Student Awareness of Environmental Footprints

Activity	Person/group responsible	Timeline	Resources Needed	Indicators of Success	Date Completed /Current Progress
Create an Environmental Committee	Planning Committee and Director	Spring 2018	Time	Progress, continuation of action plan items, survey data, paper usage and recycling data	Spring 2018
Implement a Fall and Spring student survey regarding students' perception of their carbon footprint.	Environmental Committee, teachers to administer	Fall 2018; Spring 2019; Fall 2019; Spring 2020	Time, survey form	Percentage of students showing an increase survey actions	Fall Survey Completed October 2018 Completed May 2019 Completed September 2019 and June 2020 Completed May 2021 Discontinued in 2020-2021, might need to be reimplemented in 2021-2022

Write Newsletter articles related to reducing carbon footprints, and environmental issues.	Committee, teachers and students	Implemented Fall 2018 and completed twice a year	Teachers	<i>Newsletter articles at least twice a year</i>	Completed at least twice in the 2018-2019 school year Completed January 2019 and April 2019 Completed 17 news articles for the 2018-2021 school year Completed 10 times in 2018-2021
Post Bulletin Board articles related to reducing carbon footprints and environmental issues.	Committee, teachers and students	Implemented Fall 2018; April 2019	Bulletin Board space, time, students, teachers, or classes to put up displays	<i>Bulletin boards once a quintile</i>	Completed April 2019 Completed April 2019 Completed 15 times throughout the 2018-2021 school year. Re-started Recycled Art Exhibition 2018-2021
2. Motivate students to care about their environmental impact.					
Create theme or motto, or logo that will promote Environmental awareness. (like GRICKAT)	Committee	Implemented Fall 2018	Time	The theme will exist and students will know the words and message	Completed 2019
School-wide Contests such as, but not limited to:	Committee, teachers, students	Implemented Spring 2020	Time, contest ideas	Student participation	(see below)
Decorate	Committee,	Fall 2020	Time,	Student	Fall 2020

boxes for recycled paper contest	teachers, students		essay theme	participation	
Awards for Environmental Science Fair Projects	Committee	Implemented Spring 2019	Magazine space	Student participation	Each March 2018-2021
Recycled Art Show/Contest	Committee	Spring 2019	Independent projects using "trash"	Students, parents	Spring 2019 April 2019 May 2020
3. Put knowledge into action.					
<i>Institute school-wide Activities on a Quintile Basis</i> such as, but not limited to:	Committee, teachers, students		Time, funding for small projects, seeds, trash	Student, teacher, and parent involvement in activities	
Community trash collection,	Committee, teachers, students, and eventually neighborhood community	Implemented Fall 2018	bags, gloves, etc.	Student participation, cleaner grounds around the school	Fall 2018; Spring 2019 November 2019 Neighborhood Clean-Up at Southgate Park in October 2020 Neighborhood Clean-Up at Southgate Park in Spring 2021
Community beautification, (painting, planting flowers, etc.)	Committee, teachers, students, and eventually neighborhood community	Implemented Spring 2018	Materials depend on projects	Student participation, Community involvement,	Class gardens: Spring 2019; Spring 2020 Garden April 2021 School and Nursing Home Rose Bush and

					<p>Tree Planting in April 2019,20,21</p> <p>Neighborhood Park Clean-Up September 2019,20,21</p> <p>School and Nursing Home Flower Planting in April 20,21</p>
Professional Development training to help teachers find ways to use technology to reduce paper usage	Administration, Committee, Teachers	February 2019	PD time for all staff	Reduced paper usage, increase in on-line assignments, and work submission	Feb 2019
QSI Gold	Administration, Committee, Teachers	N/A	Time, peers comfortable with technology, or professional presenters (funding)	Reduced paper usage, increase in on-line assignments, and work submission	N/A
On-line grade books	Administration, Committee, Teachers	School-wide use 2018-21	Time, peers comfortable with technology, or professional presenters (funding)	Parent access to grades, reduction in grade book use	2018-on going
On-line paper submissions	Administration, Committee, Teachers	School-wide use, where applicable, by 2018 and ON going	Time, peers comfortable with technology, or professional presenters (funding)	increase in on-line assignments, and work submission	2018-on going

Explore tablet and e-book options for assignments.	Committee, Administration, teachers	Implemented 2018 Continued in Jan 2019 with our class set of iPad	Funding for school-provided technology	Introduction of some form of paperless assignment system or activity for at least one target group.	Some teachers using 2018-2021 January 2021
Continue paper recycling project	EnviroCom, Teachers; Parents	Implemented Fall 2018	Time, table to record data of recycled paper weight	Increase in recycled portion of used paper	Yearlong
Plastic bottle recycling	EnviroCom, community	Implemented Spring 2019	time	Less plastic waste in regular garbage cans	Yearlong
Purchase of Hand Sanitizer and Anti-Bacterial Wipes for Classrooms Schoolwide					Completed yearlong 2018-2021