

## Board-wide Action

### EcoSchools and Character Education ...

#### About the program ...

Teaching and learning about conserving Earth's resources is a keystone of character development in our times. TDSB [EcoSchools](#) is now in its seventh year and continues to grow in its capacity to inspire teachers, students, caretakers, daycare workers and parents/guardians to help one another to make their school – and their world – a more environmentally thoughtful place. There are 311 certified EcoSchools and their programs are a regular part of the board's annual Character Education conference as teachers and students readily make the connection between the two.

#### “Inner Ecology:

The way we see the world is often a reflection of the way we see ourselves.

If I am despairing of myself, I despair of the world's future;

If I am hopeful for myself, I have hope for the world;

If I am uncaring of myself, I am careless of my environment and of my sister creatures;

If I am loving, I see the world as cooperative and caring;

If I feel helpless, I see the world at the mercy of events;

If I feel empowered, I see myself making a difference to my friends and my environment.

The outer world acts as a mirror to my inner world.”

– Sandy Parker (from Greig, Pike, Selby. *Earthrights: Education as if the Planet Really Mattered*. London: Kogan Page, 1987.)



#### Impact on student learning and school culture ...

- Everyone's willingness to care, be respectful and responsible, cooperate, persevere and work well as a team to reach the goals of environmental protection is evident throughout EcoSchools.
- An exemplary EcoSchools moment at this past year's Character Education Conference came when a Grade 8 girl stopped by to describe the program in her school. She reported that recycling and lights off initiatives were working well and she went on to add that these programs were fostering a culture of conservation in her school.



#### To find out more, contact ...

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