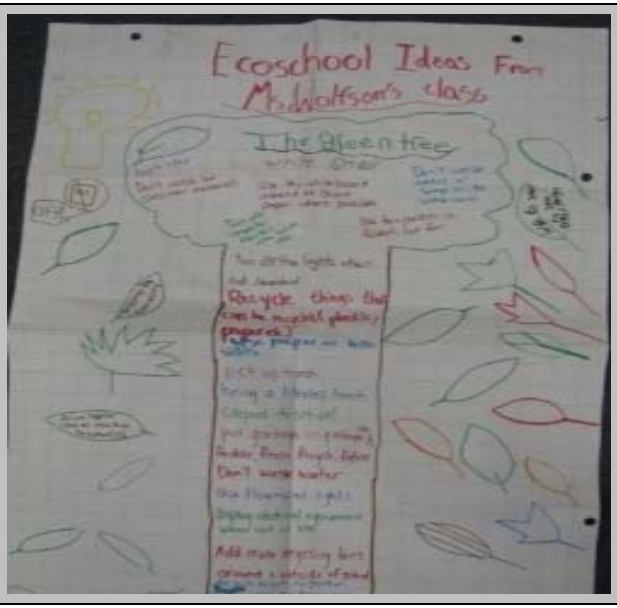
**Student Voice**

# Finding Voice and Taking Action through EcoSchools …

**About the program …**

At Cameron Public School, Grades 4 and 5 students made a call for environmental action through speeches to a class of Grade 8 students at the local middle school and through their letters to Prime Minister Stephen Harper about the importance of shutting off car motors. The students have practised active environmental citizenship by designing Eco-tickets to hand out to idling vehicles.

Students have also created mini-gardens with the Grade 2 Garden Fairy Club and modeled wonder, responsibility and kindness by discussing the importance of clean air and a quiet, garbage-free environment to bring magic to their gardens.




**Impact on student learning and school culture …**

- Students improved literacy skills and developed confidence, responsibility and leadership skills.
- The young students who presented to their older peers felt very empowered and proud of their accomplishments. The older students engaged with the younger ones to hear more about the environmental research findings that the students learned while preparing for their speeches.
- Students felt empowered when they received a reply from the Prime Minister, which reinforced the value of active citizen engagement.
- The EcoSchools initiatives helped to create a school culture of leadership, equity and excellence.
- The implementation of EcoSchools initiatives fulfills many of the ministry's Environmental Education Policy Framework's expectations and dovetails with other school initiatives.

**Other Environment Club activities …**

- Creation of a "Green Award"
- Recycling/Reuse Halloween costume drive
- Boys vs. Girls EcoSchools Challenge

**To find out more, contact …**

Toronto District School Board
Cameron Public School
211 Cameron Ave.
North York, ON M2N 1E8

Contact: Audrey Berend (Teacher, Danforth Gardens P.S.)
Phone: (416) 396-6190
Email: audrey.berend@tel.tdsb.on.ca

School website: http://schools.tdsb.on.ca/cameron/