Eco Assembly Blog-Post

The Eco Club at Pauline Johnson C.V.S. organizes and presents a huge annual assembly for the entire school, as well as some community members. It takes hours of critical research and hard work to create the multi-media assembly. This assembly is a fantastic way to include as many people as possible to begin a change or even just educate today’s youth. Teams of students collaborated to create a power point, script and musical numbers to convey our message.

This year, we targeted single-use plastics. Members of Eco Club decided that reducing single use plastics was very important. Some even agreed that the issue has become urgent for life on earth. We used videos, which depicted the harsh truth that our marine life is currently facing, in order to encourage a change. In 2010, a study showed that 4.8 to 12.7 million tons of plastics (<http://advances.sciencemag.org/content/3/7/e1700782>) reach our oceans every year and that 15 to 51 trillion pieces of microplastics, weighing between 93,000 and 236,000 metric tons, are floating around in our water (<https://iopscience.iop.org/article/10.1088/1748-9326/10/12/124006;jsessionid=123F0E078E457FC6106D3ACEE956F209.c3.iopscience.cld.iop.org>). We talked about what are called ‘garbage patches’ in our oceans, also known as gyres, how there are 5 and that the largest is twice the size of Texas. Species like sea turtles, whales, seabirds and polar bears are paying the price for our past mistakes; confusing plastics as food and eating it. They die as a result.

Throughout the assembly, we shared with students and staff how we can change our habits. Doing simple things like using re-useable bags, clothing, bottles and straws, recycling, taking public transit, composting, eating a litter-less lunch and turning off lights to save energy are all things that students can easily do to help the environment. We encouraged them to sign PJ’s “It’s The Last Straw Petition” (<http://bit.ly/pjecopetition>) to show we care and are committed to meaningful change regarding single use plastics.

Love where you live!!

J.S. (Senior student)