**KUDOS TO OUR GREEN SCHOOL!**

Last Tuesday, October 13th, Atholton was one of 12 Howard County Schools recognized by both the County Executive, Ken Ulman and our Superintendent of Schools, Dr. Sydney Cousin for our commitment to environmental principles and leadership in becoming a model school within our community. Our Green School display, which spent a few weeks in the Columbia Mall, was on display at Tuesday's awards ceremony, and rumor has it that the board will soon be delivered to Atholton to have on display in the green halls of our own school! **If you are continuing to encourage your child to wear GREEN on Wednesdays to signify the importance of packing a waste-free lunch and to recognize the importance of our environmental awareness and involvement, KUDOS to YOU as well!**

**THE NEW AES ENERGY CONSERVATION GREEEN T-SHIRT IS AVAILABLE FOR PURCHASE!**

"Conserve to Preserve at AES!" A great message for a beautiful logo, designed by our very own fifth grader, Ashley Hof! Look for a t-shirt order form in Friday folders, and support Atholton's Green School initiatives while sending out a powerful message! Orders will arrive in time for Atholton's Energy Conservation Week, which we will celebrate during April's Earth Day Week. So don't delay; order an AES Green t-shirt TODAY! Order forms can also be found on the AES website under the Green School tab. Thank you!

**COMING TO ATHOLTON - SPECIAL RECYCLING GUEST - MONDAY, OCTOBER 4TH**

This **Monday, October 4th**, **Ms. Alicia Moore, Howard County Recycling Coordinator**, will hold an interactive presentation for our students about recycling **during EVERY lunch shift!**  That's right - all of our students will get to hear Ms. Moore's informative presentation. While we at Atholton strive to pack a waste-free lunch, there are several items we bring to school that may not be reusable, but they are certainly recyclable. Recycling is an easy way for all students to be involved in bettering the environment, saving resources and reducing waste. Recycling more means less trash, which equals less cost for the our school system. It's easy, everyone can do it, and it saves us money! Parents - please feel free to come by to hear Ms. Moore's presentation during your child's lunch shift. We'd love to have you join us!

**WASTE-FREE STAR OF THE WEEK HAS BEGUN!**

So many of you continually send your children to school with waste-free lunches containing reusable and recyclable items, and you're doing it EVERY day of the week, not just on Waste-free Wednesdays. In an effort to recognize students who are keeping so much trash out of our local landfill, we have begun **Atholton's Waste-Free Star of the Week**. Stop in to the cafeteria, and have a look at the large bulletin board to find out who our very first Waste-Free Star of the Week is! (Hint: He's new to Atholton this school year, and he works in the front office...) If you'd like to get a look at our Waste-Free Star of the Week, but you can't make it in to see the board, go to the AES website, and click on the Green School tab. If you pack your child a waste-free lunch, be on the look-out! You're child may just come home with color-printed photos and a letter explaining what to do to be featured as our next STAR! THE SEARCH IS ON!!! Thank you for all of your efforts!

**COUNTY RECYCLING COORDINATOR IS IMPRESSED!**

This past Monday, Ms. Alicia Moore, Howard County's Recycling Coordinator, paid a visit to every lunch shift at Atholton. She provided valuable information on what can be recycled and what cannot when it comes to a school lunch. Ask your child to tell you the items that can be recycled. Check out the colorful new posters in the cafeteria we received to help us with our recycling efforts. Ms. Moore commented on how incredibly impressed she was with how many students are packing waste-free lunches! Atholton students are in the know when it comes to reusables, and we are surely proud! Keep up the great work, parents!

Thank you to all those students participating in this year's America Recycles Day Sculpture Expo! And big thanks for sending sculptures in on Friday so that they are all ready for display on Monday, the big day - 11.15.10 - our nation's day to recognize the importance of recycling. Come one, come all - enjoy the talents of Atholton's students while you stroll through our America Recycles Day Sculpture Expo in the front hallway! Sculptures will be on display during American Education Week. Please come visit!

**THIS WEEK'S AES WASTE-FREE STAR OF THE WEEK: Congratulations to Julia P. in 5th grade!  Julia regularly takes her carbon footprint into consideration while packing her lunch. Not only does she keep her lunch Earth-friendly, it is also very organized with her reusable sectioned container, which holds anything from her sandwich to her healthy snacks!  Thank you for keeping your lunch GREEN, Julia! To get a close-up look of Julia's photos and captions, visit the Waste-Free Star of the Week bulletin board in Atholton's cafeteria.**

**ARE YOU READY FOR A WHOLE NEW LOOK IN AES GREENWEAR???**

**Of course you are! Wait until you see the amazing new colors and styles being offered as part of the AES Green Team fundraiser! Please check today's Friday folders for a flyer and order form, or download it here. Layered Tees, Earth Tie-Dyes, Embroidered Polos....OH MY! Black, pinks, and greens....OH MY! We took bold steps this year in making sure you had many options for mega-style! And the design? The design includes Mrs. Johnson's winning slogan, "Got Earth? Preserve it..," as well as Mrs. Stewart's AMAZING arwork. Whether you're wearing it with beautiful green ink or colorful detailed embroidery, you're sending out the right message from the AES community to the world. ORDERS ARE DUE MARCH 16TH, so please do not delay....order your Greenwear today! For further information, contact lisa\_young@hcpss.org. Download your AES Greenwear order form at http://aes.hcpss.org/green\_school. Thank you for your support!**

**FLIP & TUMBLE OVER ADDITIONAL PRODUCTS BEING OFFERED DURING GREEN TEAM FUNDRAISER!**

**Always forgetting to bring your reusable bags while doing your shopping? Worry no more! Flip & Tumble bags are not only convenient, they are fun to use! They bunch up into a lycra squishy ball the size of a peach when you are not using them. The kids will love them, and you will too! Both the one-handle and the two-handle bags are being offered. Each strap includes a soft felt shoulder pad for comfort. So help the Earth by ridding yourself of those environmentally unfriendly plastic shopping bags. Go to www.flipandtumble.com to learn and see more. Order your Flip & Tumble shopping bags today. Find the option to order your bags on the same order form as our AES Greenwear, or download it here: http://aes.hcpss.org/green\_school. Thank you!**

**ARE YOU READY FOR A WHOLE NEW LOOK IN AES GREENWEAR???**

**Of course you are! Have you seen the amazing new colors and styles being offered as part of the AES Green Team fundraiser? Last week's Friday folders included a flyer and order form, or you can download it using the link on the homepage of the AES website. Layered Tees, Earth Tie-Dyes, Embroidered Polos....OH MY! Black, pinks, and greens....OH MY! We took bold steps this year in making sure you had many options for mega-style! And the design? The design includes Mrs. Johnson's winning slogan, "Got Earth? Preserve it..," as well as Mrs. Stewart's AMAZING arwork. Whether you're wearing it with beautiful green ink or colorful detailed embroidery, you're sending out the right message from the AES community to the world. ORDERS ARE DUE MARCH 16TH, so please do not delay....order your Greenwear today! For further information, contact lisa\_young@hcpss.org. Download your AES Greenwear order form at http://aes.hcpss.org/green\_school. Thank you for your support!**

**ROCK THE WASTE-FREE LUNCH SCENE WITH LUNCHSKINS!!!!**

**Yet another environmentally friendly product offered through the AES Greenwear fundraiser! These cool lunch "envelopes" are not only certified "Food Safe,"**

* **lead, BPA and phthalate-free, they are also DISHWASHER SAFE! So pack your child's lunch in style - and without waste - by using snack, sandwich, or sub sized Lunchskins. Find the option to order your Lunchskins in three different sizes on the AES Greenwear order form found at http://aes.hcpss.org/green\_school. For more information on the product, go to http://www.lunchskins.com/. ORDERS ARE DUE MARCH 16TH. Thank you.**

**PARTICIPATE IN ATHOLTON'S ENERGY CONSERVATION POLL!**

**TEST YOUR KNOWLEDGE WITH ATHOLTON'S ENERGY QUIZ!**

To help celebrate Atholton's fourth annual Energy Conservation/Earth Day Week, a parent member of the AES Green Team put together both a poll and a quiz to get our families involved in energy conservation awareness. Both have been posted on the AES website and can be found under the "Energy Conservation" tab: http://aes.hcpss.org/energy\_conservation.

During next week, Mrs. Muir will introduce the energy poll and quiz to all students during Technology class. Parents, feel free to access them at home to participate and to view results! Answers to the quiz can be found in the pdf document posted below.

GLUE STICKS & JUICE BAGS

Big congratulations to Mrs. Garnett, AES parent Mrs. Dyson, and the Juice Bag Brigade for collecting, preparing, and shipping 10,000 Capri Sun juice bags to Terracycle this school year so they are kept out of the landfill and made into new products. Also, way to go, Green Ambassadors! They collected 1,621 glue sticks this school year to ship off for recycling! They call us a MD Green School for good reason!

**Greenwear is BACK!**

**Please support our Green culture at Atholton, as well as our Green Team's environmental initiatives, by "getting your green on!" Order forms for this year's Greenwear went home in last week's Friday folders, but you can also find an order form at the end of this newsletter. From polos to hoodies, layered looks to tie-dye - we've got a little bit of everything! And don't forget about those fun and easy-to-use Flip & Tumble reusable shopping bags. Rolling them up into a squishy ball after using them makes it all worth it! Choose from bright pink, black, aqua blue, eggplant purple, or get-your-green-on green! Orders are due November 18th, just in time for holiday gifts. While the Greenwear makes a perfect gift for your child, the Flip & Tumble bags are perfect for your friends, family, coaches, neighbors, teachers, and YOU! Thank you for supporting our Green School.**

**An AES Green School Holiday Reminder for our Community:**

**Merry Mulch your Holiday Tree**

**Curbside Holiday Tree Recycling** is available for eastern Howard County residents who have curbside yardwaste recycling service. If you live in this area, you can recycle your tree on your normal recycling day from December 26, 2011 to January 20, 2012. Trees will not be collected on trash days if you receive curbside yardwaste collection. If you are unsure if you receive yardwaste service, call 410-313-6444.

**How to Prepare Your Holiday Tree for Recycling**

Remove all tinsel, garland, ornaments, tree stands, plastic bags, or any other man-made materials. Set your tree out the night before your pick up. Trees are picked up by a separate truck, as early as 6 a.m. or as late as 7 p.m.

**There are other ways to dispose of your tree.**

**Tree Drop-off Sites in Columbia:**

Cedar Lane Park

5081 Cedar Lane

Grandfather's Garden Center

5320 Phelps Luck Drive

**Thank you for keeping our AES community as waste-free as possible.**

**WORLD'S WATER DEMO - WATER CONSERVATION WEEK:**

Pops, Moms, Uncles, Aunts, Grandparents!  We need your help! We will celebrate Water Conservation Week from April 23rd until April 27th. We have a water awareness demonstration to share with students that will help them understand the amount of fresh water available on Earth.  Please use the AES Volunteer Wiki (http://aesvolunteers.hcpss.wikispaces.net/Water+Conservation+Demo) to sign up if you feel you can volunteer an hour or two during an afternoon that week. Contact Lisa Young with any quetions: lisa\_young@hcpss.org.  You will watch a video that will explain how to share the 15-minute demonstration with students.  Thank you for your willingness to get involved!

**COME GET GREEN WITH US!**

Greetings!  It’s the start of another environmentally friendly school year here at Atholton!  In keeping with our efforts to remain a certified MD Green School, Atholton’s Green Team will carry on with its mission to bring school-wide sustainablility to our school, and in turn, out into our community.  **PLEASE COME JOIN OUR GREEN TEAM!** Parents are an invaluable component of our Green School efforts; we need you!  Atholton’s Green Team is comprised of parents, staff members and AES students.  We meet one to two times a month to brainstorm and put into action environmentally sound initiatives and learning experiences for our students and families.  We welcome all interested parents!  Our first Green Team meeting will take place in Ms. Byrnes’s classroom, Room 104, at 8:30AM on Wednesday, September 14th. If it is more convenient for you to bring along your children, no problem!  Should you have any questions, please contact either Mrs. Young- lisa\_young@hcpss.org or Ms. Byrnes - courtney\_byrnes@hcpss.org, co-chairs of Atholton’s Green Team.  We look forward to seeing you!

**WE'RE RAISING MONARCHS, AND WE NEED YOUR MILKWEED!**

Did you know that the Monarchs born this time of year will make the miraculous journey to Mexico in order to roost for the winter months? Here at Atholton, we have LIVE Monarch caterpillars, and they are *VERY* hungry! We are providing them with Milkweed, since that is all they can eat before turning into beautiful Monarch butterflies. If you have some Milkweed plants at home - any kind of Milkweed will do - please consider donating some to Mrs. Young to ensure our Monarch caterpillars grow and thrive. It is best to place the plant, with its roots, in a pot or bucket with some soil, but if you have to cut the plant to bring it in, that will be fine too. A cut plant can be fed to the caterpillars right away before the leaves wilt. If you would like to contact Mrs. Young about your Milkweed, email lisa\_young@hcpss.org. Thank you!

**HOLD ON TO THOSE UNWANTED CLOTHES, SHOES, PURSES & OTHER TEXTILES!**

During the month of April, Atholton will participate in a new GREEN initiative - collecting gently used textiles, such as clothes, belts, shoes, purses, curtains, etc. for reuse by those in need. Further details will be sent out in March to prepare you for our collection, but we wanted to give you a heads up now, since spring cleaning time is almost upon us. Please consider setting things aside; this is also a fundraiser for our school. Green for green, as they say! Thank you for supporting our Green School.

**GOOD GOLLY - GET YOUR GREEN ON! AES GREENWEAR IS BACK!**

As part of Atholton's Green culture, we show our spirit by wearing green on Waste-Free Wednesdays. Where can you get your green, you ask? Have no fear, the Greenwear sale is HERE! Order forms for Greenwear and Flip & Tumble bags went home in last week's Friday folder. But you can also find an order form at the end of this newsletter or posted on our website under the Green School tab. Find old favorites as well as new styles, like a **zip-up hoodie, a sunflower or swirl tie-dye,** and f**lannel PJ pants in forest and kelley green** - just in time for the holidays! Students: New this year is ***"Last-Wednesday-of-the-Month-Green-PJ-Day!"***  Choose from two styles of AES Greenwear PJs! **Orders are due November 28th** in order to receive Greenwear before winter break. Catch the GREEN spirit, and order your AES Greenwear and reusable Flip & Tumble bags today! Check out many of our products on the bulletin board by the cafeteria entrance. Additional size samples are in the front office in case you would like to test them out. Thank you for supporting our MD Green School! (More samples to be hung on the bulletin board next week. Stop in and see them.)

**AES 4th ANNUAL AMERICA RECYCLES DAY SCULPTURE EXPO - November 12 - 16, 2012**

In honor of our nation’s **America Recycles Day** on November 15th, Atholton's Green Team will be hosting our fourth **America Recycles Sculpture Expo during the week of Nov. 12th.** The goal of this event is to *promote awareness about waste reduction and educate students about reducing and reusing materials*. **Students in all grades are invited to use their creativity to construct a sculpture made entirely of recycled materials.** Students may work independently or with a partner on this project. The sculptures can be purely artistic or based upon a character, animal, object, person, etc. **Sculptures should be brought to school on Monday, November 12th** and will be displayed in the front of the school by that afternoon. They will remain on display through Friday, Nov. 16th for **American Education Week.** All participants will receive a recognition award certificate of participation.  If your child is interested in participating in this opportunity, ***you can find additional details and a slip to be returned by Nov. 7th in your child's Friday folder.***...or you can find the letter and form on the Green School page of the AES website.  We look forward to seeing your child's creativity!

**WE'RE HELPING MONARCHS!**

After raising, tagging and releasing 14 Monarch butterflies, fifth grade GT Math students sent a symbolic Monarch to Mexico last week to act as an ambassador, sending a message of appreciation to Mexican schoolchildren who live in the limited regions of Mexico where the amazing Monarch butterflies spend their winter each year. In addition to sending a message of thanks, a personalized class Monarch and a cluster of symbolic Monarchs representing our school, state and country, a donation was made to support the Monarch Butterfly Fund, a non-profit organization that works to preserve the threatened Monarch habitats in Mexico.  Thank you, Monarch families, for pitching in to show that we want our Monarchs to continue to make both the U.S *and* Mexico their home.

**OUR STORM DRAINS NOW CARRY A MESSAGE OF CONSERVATION**

One of this week's meaningful Water Conservation Week activities was to get the two storm drains on Atholton's grounds, both in the back parking lot, painted with a message of conservation. AES fifth grade Green Ambassadors did fabulous work getting the job done. Special thanks to Mr. and Mrs. Morrill and Mrs. Linthicum for their assistance. Once the drains were dry, Green Ambassadors took each class outside to see what they had done and to teach them why it is important to keep pollution from making its way down the storm drains. They also took the classes down the path to our stream to show them the connection between the storm drains and our local waterways. Way to go, Green Ambassadors! For more photos of the storm-drain painting process, visit <http://lyoung.weebly.com/green-school.html>.

**WATER CONSERVATION ARTISTS POST A VALUABLE MESSAGE**

Students tried their artistic hands at creating beautiful water conservation posters to display in significant areas around the school, such as above the water fountains and outside the bathroom doors. The artwork was amazing, and the message is surely appreciated by this MD Green School! Congratulations to the following students whose work is now posted as a great reminder to us all: Amelia O., Anastasia S., Brigette W., Keren M., Abby R., Carly G., Brandon T., Roxanna H., Harrison M., and Madelyn B. Well done, folks!

**WE'VE GOT SUPER-GREEN BROWNIES!!!**

The second grade Brownies Troop 76 gang was at it again this week! They, too, decided to make a commitment to help beautify our school and keep it green. Hats off to this wonderful group of girls, and their leaders, for providing AES - and the Monarch butterflies - with some Milkweed, the only plant that Monarch catapillars will eat for survival and for growing into beautiful butterflies. Those Brownies truly know what teamwork means; we surely appreciate their efforts!

**NOW SHOWING........"AES PANTHER LEARNS ABOUT WATER COSERVATION"**

As part of Atholton's Water Conservation Week activities, all students were shown a student-made movie during Technology class called "AES Panther Learns About Water Conservation."  This short video touches on several best management practices we should all keep in mind for conserving water.  Visit <http://aes.hcpss.org/green_school> to see the adorable video for yourself.  Hats off to Jane R., Elisabeth M., and Chad M. in fifth grade for an outstanding job!  The Panther is now very well informed, and so are the students of Atholton!

**HEADS-UP FOR AES WATER CONSERVATION WEEK: April 23-27**

The AES Green Team, as well as the fifth grade Green Ambassadors, have been working hard to ensure that your child heads home each day with a better awareness and understanding of water conservation next week. Daily water-saving tips will be announced, water conservation posters will be up, World's Water demonstrations will be done in class by our wonderful volunteers, newly painted storm drains will be shown off, and an adorable student-made water conservation video will be shown during all Technology classes. Please note that a survey will go home on Monday, and if your child completes this water conservation survey at home with your help, he or she will automatically be entered for an exclusive Spring Carnival drawing. Just make sure to send the completed survey back to school. As always, thank you for supporting our Green School!

Atholton Citizen Scientists! Now that we have introduced you to our lovely bird feeders, perhaps we can pique your interest in submitting data! If you partipate in the Great Backyard Bird Count, and you bring Mrs. Young your data print-out, you will get a prize from her prize box! Go AES scientists!

**The Great Backyard Bird Count**

**February 17-20**

**The 2012 Great Backyard Bird Count (GBBC) will start on Friday, February 17th, and run through the following Monday, February 20th.  If you haven't participated in past years, give it a try this year! You'll see how getting involved in a scientific effort can actually be fun and easy! The GBBC is *open to everyone!***

**Remember, just by doing what you enjoy doing anyway, watching the birds at your feeders, you can help to make this annual event successful. Your bird counting contributions really do count, and it's always impressive to see how the many small contributions add up to create a big, comprehensive picture of our U.S. bird population.**

**ATHOLTON'S GOT SOUL!!!!!**

And now many less fortunate folks who did not have shoes have sole, too! GREAT WORK, AES families! Would you believe we successfully collected 572 pairs of shoes to deliver to Soles for Souls in order to get shoes on the feet of those in need?! Big thanks to Atholton's Green Ambassadors, the AES Green Team and the PTA for working together to make sure our shoe drive was a success! Thank you for your generosity. Special thanks to Mrs. Donato and Mrs. Tracy for driving our shoes up to New Jersey to make sure they get to their next destination.

**WE'RE RECYCLING CRAYONS!**

The National Crayon Recycling Program has kept over 77,000 pounds of crayons out of the landfills. We're going to add to that total by doing our part to recycle crayons here at Atholton. Do you have boxes of used crayons at home that are no loner wanted? We have a bin in our front hallway for the purpose of collecting used unwanted crayons. What will we do with all of these crayone? Well, the bin is open for use by both our school and our community, so if you have a Scout project that necessitates crayons, help youself! Maybe you need some crayons for something you'd like to do with your kids at home - help yourself! Teachers here at Atholton are using these crayons during On-Track celebrations. Any crayons not used by our school and community will be sent off to the National Crayon Recycling Program, where they will use them to make Crazy Crayons. Funds made by the sale of Crazy Crayons go directly back into the recycling program. For information about the National Crayon Recycling Program, visit: http://www.crazycrayons.com/recycle\_program.html

**SAVE THOSE SOLES!**

Out with the old, and in with the new, right? Well, if that's your mantra while cleaning out the closet during the new year, please consider setting aside gently used shoes to donate to **Soles 4 Souls**, an agency that gets shoes onto the feet of those in need. Our PTA is pairing up with the AES Green Team for this initiative, which will run through the month of January. A box for shoe donation collection can be found in the front hallway. Flip-flops, sandals, tennis shoes, heels - Soles 4 Souls will take them all, as long as they are not ripped or have any holes. Please consider sending in your unwanted shoes for a good cause. It's our way of looking out for others while thinking GREEN as well! Thank you.

**AES 3RD ANNUAL AMERICA RECYCLES DAY SCULPTURE EXPO - November 14-18, 2011**

In honor of our nation’s **America Recycles Day** on November 15th, Atholton's Green Team will be hosting our third **America Recycles Sculpture Expo during the week of Nov. 14, 2011.** The goal of this event is to *promote awareness about waste reduction and educate students about reducing and reusing materials*. **Students in all grades are invited to use their creativity to construct a sculpture made entirely of recycled materials.** Students may work independently or with a partner on this project. The sculptures can be purely artistic or based upon a character, animal, object, person, etc. **Sculptures should be brought to school on Monday, November 14th** and will be displayed in the front of the school by that afternoon. They will remain on display through Friday, Nov. 18th for **American Education Week.** All participants will receive a recognition award certificate of participation. If your child is interested in participating in this opportunity, ***you can find additional details and a slip to be returned by Nov. 8th in your child's Friday folder.***...or you can find the letter and form at the end of this newsletter. We look forward to seeing your child's creativity!

* **WE'RE HELPING MONARCHS!**

Second grade Monarch Migration Instructional Seminar participants sent symbolic Monarchs to Mexico last week to act as ambassadors, sending messages of appreciation to Mexican school children who live in the limited regions of Mexico where the amazing Monarch butterflies spend their winter each year. In addition to sending messages of thanks, a personalized class Monarch and a cluster of symbolic Monarchs representing our school, state and country, donations were made by several families to support the Monarch Butterfly Fund, a non-profit organization that works to preserve the threatened Monarch habitats in Mexico. Thank you, Monarch families, for pitching in to show that we want our Monarchs to continue to make both the U.S *and* Mexico their home.

**A.E.S. GREENWEAR & FLIP N' TUMBLE BAGS ARE BACK.......Almost!**

With all the amazing choices of AES Greenwear offered last spring, in addition to our lovely new logo created by Mrs. Stewart, we wanted to offer you the choice to order shirt styles you may not yet have. Kindergarten parents, this is the perfect opportunity to stock up on new Greenwear, as this will be the only sale of the school year. And how about those Flip n' Tumble bags? They certainly ended up being the most convenient (and fun!) reusable bags to use and carry! This is your chance to get a few more. Soon you will see an order form in Friday folders. Samples will be up for display in the school and posted on the website and newsletter. So be on the lookout - don't miss your chance to get your AES Greenwear prior to the holdiays.

**WASTFREE STAR IS UNDERWAY!**

Did you know that if every American child attending a public elementary school packed a waste-free lunch, 1.2 billion pounds of lunch waste would be diverted from landfills each year? This week our first official Wastfree Star of the Week was spotted on Wastefree Wednesday! This week's chosen Star will be featured in next week's newsletter. There is a one-week lag on reporting our Star, as our Panther Press Newsletter must be published prior to our Wastefree Star documetation. Thank you for supporting our MD Green School by choosing to take extra steps to keep the load we send to the landfill at a minimum.

**HOWARD COUNTY RECYCLING COORDINATOR VISITS ATHOLTON FOR ALL LUNCH SHIFTS**

Alicia Moore, Recycling Coordinator for Howard County Environmental Services, spent the day at Atholton on Tuesday, September 20th to visit each grade’s lunch shift.  Ms. Moore was pleased with our wastefree lunch initiatives. "I’m impressed that Atholton Elementary School goes above and beyond to recycle even more items. The students and staff are very involved and take a real interest in recycling. It was great to see how many students pack a waste-free lunch. Every little bit helps. Reusing or recycling just one extra thing can make a big difference!" Thanks, Ms. Moore, for encouraging and recognizing our recycling efforts. And thank you to our parents as well, as you continue to impress upon your children the importance of reducing, reusing and recycling.

**HOWARD COUNTY RECYCLING COORDINATOR TO VISIT AES!**

Alicia Moore, Recycling Coordinator for Howard County Environmental Services will spend the whole day at Atholton on **Tuesday, September 20th** to visit each grade’s lunch shift.  Ms. Moore will be there to support our wastefree lunch initiatives, providing her expertise in what we can do to keep as much trash out of our local landfills as possible.  She will come with visual aids and will answer any questions your child has about recycling.  Please feel free to stop by to see Ms. Moore if you have questions yourself!

**PLEASE HELP INSTALL OUR BIRD FEEDERS J**

They say it takes a village, and when it comes to Atholton’s new Outdoor Classroom bird-watching feature, the birds need THIS village!  You may have noticed that we have a beautiful new bird blind at the entrance of the outdoor classroom, but there are not yet any feeders.  A variety of lovely bird feeders will be picked up from Wildlife Authority in Ellicott City this weekend, so we will need some volunteers to help install them. This would involve inserting two posts in the ground and mounting bird feeder equipment on the posts.  Volunteers could opt to come out before, during or after school, or it can be arranged to have the workdone on a weekend day.  Your physical help would be greatly appreciated, and when it’s all done, our kids can start watching the birds in action! If you are interested in this volunteer opportunity, please contact lisa\_young@hcpss.org. Thank you so much!

**AES OUTDOOR CLASSROOM IS NOW COMPLETE!!!**

There was magic in the air on a beautiful day Friday, June 3rd, as many volunteers came together to construct Atholton's beautiful outdoor classroom! Huge thanks to **Lowe's** for grant funding, labor and materials, **Garden Gate Landscaping** for plants and labor, **Bartlett Tree Experts** for tree stumps to use for benches, **BG&E** for cable spools we have turned into tables, **the fifth grade class** **of AES** for the picnic table and bird feeder gifts, **HCPSS** for clearing our wooded space, providing wood chips, and loads of support, and **many AES family volunteers, who were absolutely outstanding in working together to get the job done!** Our project serves as a model in Howard County, and our students, staff and community will reap the benefits for years to come. If you haven't already stopped by to see our masterpiece, consider taking a walk to check out our bird blind for observing birds, outdoor amphitheater-style classroom, and newly cleared nature path down to the babbling stream. Way to go, Atholton!

**JOB WELL DONE, A.E.S. GREEN AMBASSADORS!**

Atholton's fifth grade Green Ambassadors were recognized this week to show appreciation for all they accomplished during the 2010-2011 school year. They dedicated themselves to the task of driving the "green momentum" here at A.E.S., and they did it so well! Thank you, Green Ambassadors, for giving it your all, and making sure our school is on the cutting edge when it comes to being GREEN! Please take your efforts with you to your future middle schools so your positive influence will carry on throughout the community!

**AES OUTDOOR CLASSROOM IS NOW COMPLETE!!!**

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