

## Brown is Green

Congratulations to everyone at Brown - we are now PLATINUM certified Ecoschool. Our school was recognized at a special Platinum ceremony in September at the Evergreen Brick Works. This award recognizes the group effort that it takes to become an Ecoschool.

### Schoolyard Cleanup

Our annual Earth Day schoolyard cleanup is scheduled this year for Thursday April 21<sup>st</sup> (in lieu of Earth Day falling on Easter Friday). A group of parent volunteers will be meeting to clean up the schoolyard with any interested students during the lunch hour. The students will be supervised and provided with gloves so please stop by and lend a hand if you have the time

### Garbage Audit

To get a sense of the amount of garbage that Brown School generates from school lunches and snacks, check out the Eco bulletin in the hallway outside the school office.

Our school recently went through a garbage audit as part of the Ecoschool certification process. The results of the audit, with ideas as to how to reduce garbage, have been displayed by the Eco-kids.

### Litterless Lunches and Snacks

A great way to help reduce the amount of garbage at our school and to help keep the school yard clean is to pack litterless lunches and snacks. Check out the suggestions from the TDSB Ecoschools.

### Ongoing Eco Initiatives

There are lots of sustainable initiatives at Brown. We encourage everyone to participate in as many as they can:

Eco-kids - meet once a week during lunch to discuss how they can contribute to a more sustainable environment. Leslie Hazan leads the junior students and Holly Bondy the primary ones.

Kiss and Ride Program - reduces congestion and car emissions by providing a safe way to drop your child at school. Pull up at the designated area on Poplar Plains and an adult will open the door to help your child out.

ABC-Anything But Car day - held every Wednesday to encourage families to leave behind the car and find a more sustainable way to commute to school.

Litterless Lunches - encourages families to pack snacks and lunches in reusable containers to reduce litter on the school grounds.

Fall Fling Crafts - the crafts made by students and available for sale at the Fall Fling are created with recycled materials to demonstrate the reuse of materials.

*Garden Fete* - the aim is to reduce all garbage at our annual event and highlight ways of being more environmentally sustainable. We are improving every year.

*School Grounds* - maintain nature in our school grounds and clean up litter.

*Earth Day* - involve the students in a project to observe Earth Day.

*Eco-Committee* - parent volunteers who are always looking for fresh ideas and willing people such as our new Co-Chair, Tricia Davidson-Chiasson.



# Recipe for a Waste-free Lunch

When packing a lunch for or with your child, consider the following ideas. Not only is a waste-free lunch better for the environment, it can save you money as well.

## Here are some packing tips to MUNCH on

Yes please	Please avoid
REUSABLE lunch carrier	AVOID paper or plastic bags
REUSABLE container (plastic)	AVOID plastic wrap, foil, or Styrofoam®
REUSABLE drink bottle or thermos	AVOID single-use cans, bottles, or cartons
CLOTH NAPKIN to wash and re-use	AVOID paper napkins
CUTLERY to wash and re-use	AVOID plastic forks/spoons
HEALTHY snacks!	AVOID over-packaged snacks

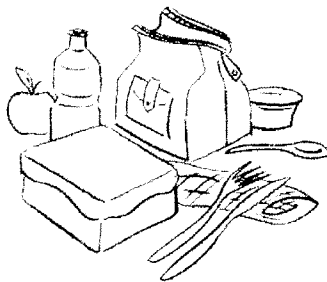
### Why pack a waste-free lunch?

- It's waste-free
- It costs less
- It's healthier

### Food for thought

The average student lunch generates 30 kg of waste per school year. That adds, on average, about 8500 kg of waste per school, per year!!!

## Here are some costs to MUNCH on



### Waste-free lunch

\$2.65/an average day  
 \$13.25/week  
 \$477.00/school year

### Regular lunch

\$4.02/an average day  
 \$20.10/week  
 \$723.60/school year

Care for  
 your child  
 and care  
 for  
 the Earth!

