



Margaret Giron <margaret.giron@gmail.com>

Reusable Bags from St. Peter's

Green Olney <greenolney@gmail.com>
To: Margaret Giron <margaret.giron@gmail.com>

Wed, Nov 1, 2023 at 9:13 AM

Thank you Margaret!! Got the bags. I'll write more about ideas on coming days. Thank you so much to all at st Peters!!

On Wed, Nov 1, 2023, 9:10 AM Margaret Giron <margaret.giron@gmail.com> wrote:

Hey Jen, fyi, I dropped the bags off on your front stoop earlier this morning.

Yes, these are from St. Peter's!

If you have any additional ideas on what the school can do to help you/the community, please let me know!

Thanks,
Margaret

Sent from my iphone

On Oct 31, 2023, at 3:44 PM, Green Olney <greenolney@gmail.com> wrote:

Hi Margaret, that's wonderful! Yes, if you could drop them off at my home would be great.....just outside the house will be fine...there's usually someone there. Feel free to ring the bell or just drop off on the steps or under the overhang of the garage if it's raining.

Thank you! This is from the St. Peter's bag drive, right?! Please thank the community for their efforts to reduce single use plastic waste!

Jen

On Tue, Oct 31, 2023 at 2:55 PM Margaret Giron <margaret.giron@gmail.com> wrote:

Hi Jen!

I have a large bag of 56 reusable bags for you! Can I drop it off at your house (or another preferred location) sometime this week?

Thanks,
Margaret

On Thu, Oct 19, 2023 at 12:39 PM Margaret Giron <margaret.giron@gmail.com> wrote:

Jen,

I've asked the scout who led the bag drive if he would like to bring you the bags on Sunday. If not, I will try to get them from him at tonight's meeting and will bring them myself.

As far as a write up for our Plastic Writing Utensils Recycling Drive, this is what I wrote for our green schools application:

Grades Pre-K through 8 participated in collecting old unusable markers, highlighters, pens and plastic pencils during the end-of-year cleanout. We collected 886 items = 17 lbs! The Environmental Club decorated repurposed shipping/shoe boxes to use as collection boxes, which were distributed to each classroom. After several weeks, the club collected, sorted and counted the items before they were donated to Staples for recycling.

So essentially, the club spent multiple meetings doing the following tasks:

End of last year

- bringing in old boxes and decorating / labeling them as marker collection boxes. Some were very simple; others had LED lights on them! But they all specified that they were collection boxes for used

- plastic markers, pens, highlighters and pencils.
- placing a collection box in each classroom with a short note requesting that the box NOT be thrown away
- composing an announcement that was emailed to all the teachers to explain what the club was doing
- checking the classroom boxes during several meetings and collecting the items into one large bin that was kept in Mrs. Caldeira's classroom

Beginning of this year

- sorted through the bin and pulled out trash, metal, erasers, wood pencils, etc
- counted all items (each student took a smaller boxful and tallied their count on paper, then we added up all the tallies)
- placed all the items in multiple repurposed Amazon boxes,
- I took them home, weighed them, and drove them to Staples.

Per their website, it looks like they now recycle Crayons and wooden pencils as well!

<https://www.staples.com/stores/recycling#whatcanberecycledinstore>

But I don't see any criteria on how to package them up for donating. Or what they do with the Crayons (are they melted down and made into new crayons?) I imagine that they'd need to be sorted by category/material. Though I think the first step for still-usable crayons and wooden pencils is to gather them for REUSE instead of chucking them into recycling right away... Maybe a school 'supply store' where kids can get crayons and pencils for free.

There are photos posted on Saint Peter's Facebook page if you're curious. If you search for #SPSGoesGreen, you can see all of our Environmental Club posts.

Also, just FYI, I created a website for the Green Team a few days ago, and listed Green Olney as one of our Community Partners! Scroll down to the bottom:

<https://stpetershsb.membershiptoolkit.com/story/392295>

I'll be in touch again soon for brainstorming ideas! We've collected a bunch of really nice mason jars (mainly from me and my Roots soups addiction....) and spaghetti / peanut butter jars, so I would love to find a cool repurposing project for those!

Thanks!
Margaret

On Thu, Oct 19, 2023 at 9:52 AM Green Olney <greenolney@gmail.com> wrote:

Dear Margaret,

This is wonderful! I'm so impressed by St. Peter's environmental action this new school year so far!! How great.

Actually, we are having a Green Olney table at the Farmers Market this coming Sunday (0900-1300).....If you are around this weekend and planning to come to the market, you could bring the Boy Scout collected bags. I think it would be best if St. Peters gave their bag drive bags to Green Olney, so we can organize their distribution at the OFM.... Janet Terry of the Market prefers that GO handles all the reusable bag comings and goings:)

So great that you've done a collection and brought to Staples. Do you have a little write up about how you did it that we could distribute to other schools in Olney? We just had a Green Olney meeting Tues night, and we discussed how one of our goals is to get all the schools in the Olney area collecting old magic markers, pens, etc.....for sending to Staples. If you have a model/process drafted up, we could share w/all other schools in Olney, citing St. Peter's as a great example!

Yes, it would be great to brainstorm ideas for your Environmental Club!

So happy to hear all this, Margaret, and I hope we'll see each other again soon!
Kind regards,
Jen

On Tue, Oct 17, 2023 at 5:29 PM Margaret Giron <margaret.giron@gmail.com> wrote:

Hi Jen!

It's been a while since we spoke last; I hope all is well.

Wanted to let you know that Saint Peter's is currently holding a reusable bag drive to donate to the Olney Farmer's Market. We're ending the collection on October 30th, so I can get the bags to you sometime after that. Or, would you like us to donate them directly to the market?

I will also have some to give you from Boy Scout Troop 457 as we just finished a bag drive as well.

FYI- we completed our marker & highlighter collection at the end of last school year; counted and sorted them this year, and donated to Staples recycling program free of charge!!

After our Green Schools application has been sent in (March), I will be looking for things for the Environmental Club to do, so please keep me in the loop for future projects in which we can partner with you.

Thanks!
Margaret

On Wed, Jun 7, 2023 at 2:32 PM Green Olney <greenolney@gmail.com> wrote:
ok, will do! Also I will need to leave just before 4 to pick up my daughter.
Jen

On Wed, Jun 7, 2023 at 2:26 PM Margaret Giron <margaret.giron@gmail.com> wrote:
Great! Actually, I changed my mind. Meet me at the back of the school since the front of the school will be crazy because of dismissal. I drive a blue volvo. I'll meet you in the back and we can walk to the front together. I marked a "P" below for where to park. When you drive through the parking lot, there will be students trying to tell you where to go. Just let them know that you need to park by the science room and you're there for environmental club. call with questions!

<image.png>

On Wed, Jun 7, 2023 at 1:10 PM Green Olney <greenolney@gmail.com> wrote:
Yes, Margaret...I'll be there just before 3 today. I'll call you if I get lost.)
Is the front lobby on the GA Ave. side or the other side of the school. ?
Jen

On Wed, Jun 7, 2023 at 10:52 AM Margaret Giron <margaret.giron@gmail.com> wrote:
Hi Jen!
Just making sure you're still available for today's meeting? I can meet you at the school lobby a little before 3 so we can sign in and get our name tags. If you beat me there, just let them know you're there to speak to the Environmental Club and that I will be there to escort you.

Also, my cell number is 240-476-2943 if you need to reach me.

Thanks!
Margaret

On Tue, May 30, 2023 at 11:29 PM Green Olney <greenolney@gmail.com> wrote:
Hi Margaret,.....that is exactly what I was going to propose. It's a bummer, as it's so expensive, but with the free program going away (tomorrow!), I think that's the only option for now. Our Terracycle expert at GO will keep an eye out, as that's been a big program we were pushing (the free magic markers, etc. one). Anyhow.....that's great. I'll put the 7th at 3 on my calendar to come over and meet you.

Many thanks!
Jen

On Tue, May 30, 2023 at 11:22 PM Margaret Giron <margaret.giron@gmail.com> wrote:
Hi Jen!

No worries on tomorrow; I know how you feel. I have more work than I can handle right now!

Next Wednesday should work out fine. The only thing we'll need to do is go around to classrooms and empty the marker collection boxes. But that should only take about 15 minutes. So that leaves 45 minutes to chat with you about some ideas for next year!

Btw, we decided to bite the bullet and purchase a terra cycle box for \$140.... Ugh. We haven't gotten it yet, so if you have a better idea, we're all ears!

Thanks in advance for your time, and we'll see you next week!

Margaret

Sent from my iphone

On May 30, 2023, at 11:05 PM, Green Olney
<greenolney@gmail.com> wrote:

Dear Margaret,

I could come tomorrow (and actually had it on my calendar)....but I wonder....would next Wednesday, the 7th actually work - I know that's your last meeting? I have a few deadlines at work tomorrow, so I could use the extra time. If not, then I can make it tomorrow but may only be able to stay from 3-3:30. Just let me know what works best for you.

I'm just sorry that the pen/magic marker recycling program is going away...but there IS a way to still do a collection....it will just cost a little money. I'll explain when I see you.

Kind regards,
Jen

On Sun, May 28, 2023 at 7:45 PM Margaret Giron
<margaret.giron@gmail.com> wrote:

Thanks for your response, Jennifer! And I apologize for the ridiculous delay in responding... If you can still make it to our meeting this Wednesday, that would be great! The club just distributed our marker collection boxes to all the classrooms last Wednesday, so we'll have some time during this week's meeting to talk with you about future projects!

If you can make it, I'll give you details on where to meet, etc.

Thanks and hope you're having a great weekend!
Margaret

On Thu, May 11, 2023 at 1:20 PM Green Olney
<greenolney@gmail.com> wrote:

Hi Margaret and Kimberly,

This is Jen..I spoke w/Kimberly at the Olney Farmers Market a few weeks ago. No worries about missing the meeting last night...we have them monthly, and hopefully you could join another time.

I could possibly come to St. Peter's on the 31st to your afternoon meeting.

I just wanted to let you know as soon as possible, though, the Terracycle program of non-brand specific pens, markers, etc. (sponsored by Bic) is going away at the end of May! If you would like to do a collection, you would need to get it to us (I will put you in touch w/the Green Olney person who coordinates the Terracycle collections) by May 20th. I just learned about this last night at our meeting. It's so unfortunate! I'm really not sure what the alternatives will be going forward....there are some brand specific collections, and there are also ways you can buy a Terracycle box for a collection (They are rather pricey, but if you have a budget could work).

Anyhow, I'll put the 31st on my calendar, and just let me know where to meet you at St Peters.

Best wishes,
Jennifer

On Thu, May 11, 2023 at 11:00 AM Margaret Giron
<margaret.giron@gmail.com> wrote:

Hello Green Olney!

I am a parent volunteer at Saint Peter's School in Olney, and am Chair of our Green Team and co-leader of our Environmental Club. I have cc'd Kim Caldeira, Saint Peter's Middle School Science teacher and co-leader of the Environmental Club (I believe she spoke with someone at the Olney Farmer's Market a few weeks ago).

We are both super disappointed that we could not make it to your May meeting last night. But we would appreciate an opportunity to speak with you about some potential partnership opportunities with our school. Our Green Team has been working towards our MAEOE Green Schools certification application (<https://maeoe.org/green-schools-and-green-centers/green-schools-program>) Fingers crossed for March 2024!, and our Environmental Club of 22 4th-7th graders is teeming with energy and enthusiasm for cool environmental projects. At yesterday's meeting, we started collecting and labeling collection boxes for markers, highlighters and pens that we will distribute to the classrooms in the coming weeks in time for the end of year cleanout. And we plan to give all collected items to you! FYI :)

In the near future, we would love to learn more about a school-wide composting program, community trash clean-up, and maybe even a used T-shirt drive to help with your reusable bag initiative (are they hard to make? Simple enough to teach students how to use a sewing machine?). Among many other topics.

Would someone in your organization be willing and available to come to one of our Environmental Club meetings to talk about all these things? We meet Wednesdays at 3:00-4:15 in the Science room at the school until the end of our school year. Last meeting will be June 7.

I am available to chat on the phone if you would like! Just let me know what time works for you. Looking forward to hearing back from you!

Thanks,
Margaret
240-476-2943