Some of our meetings are in email form since it is difficult for people other than teachers to attend. Children’s meetings are held in their classrooms with 2 or more teacher representatives from the committee facilitating the meetings because the children are very young (ages 3- 6) it is difficult for them to take notes. Kindergarteners do some writing filling out audits and making signs.

**Feb. 25** **2014** Kindergarten Committee invited John Vucci from facilities to teach them about how the CYC is heated and air conditioned, Feb. 27 the committee discussed how to conserve that energy and came up with more insulation near the doors and windows. They also made and distributed reminder signs about turning off lights and unplugging power vampires.

**Feb. 20, 2014 Green Committee e-meeting** talked about solar panels on playground, little lending library box, eco-school updates, School Yard Habitat, Honor Society helping with gardens, and Trash-Free Tuesdays becoming lights out and cloth napkins. Greg Thompson said he would make the libraries out of used pallets.

**Feb. 7, 2014** Staff Meeting- Julia and Vera reported on progress toward Eco-School. Teacher’s agreed to try out the bird count graph and added it should be laminated.

**Feb 6, 2014 PTA Meeting**- Julia Aquino introduced herself and told about her legacy project. PTA members were invited to join the Green Committee. The Kindergarten Green Committee presented a banner they had made with the new Eco-Code, “The CYC Rules at Taking Care of the Earth”. PTA said they would pay for Habitat sign from NWF.

**Feb. 1, 2014** cyc-sustain email- Julia asks members to vote on Eco-code. An email also went out to ask if Maryland Day could be tweaked as a Green Festival since it was in the past. Mr. M said yes since he is doing a sing-a-long and Anne asked the puppeteers who agreed too.

**Jan 27 and 29**- Yellow Room and Kindergarten read a book about being green and came up with ideas for the eco-code. Ideas were combined from both committees to vote on. Teacher members from the committee were present.

**Jan 2014-** Sally DeLeon gave a workshop on the University’s Climate Action Plan

**Dec. 16, 2014** email announces that we have completed the requirements for the Gold Office Award. Vera will be presented with the award in January as part of a Go-Rep meeting.

**Dec. 6, 2014** email:

Hi Green Commitee,  
  
What do you think about asking PTA to use compostable plates and cups for PTA night and getting the parents on board to try composting? I typed up this letter to send to the officers. Let me know if you think it's a good idea please.   
  
Sincerely, Vera

Dear PTA Officers,

We were wondering if the PTA would participate in our Green Office journey by working toward number 12 on the list making our meetings “zero waste”. We could do this by buying compostable plates and cups and having compost and recycle bins at the meetings. We could also work toward number 11 “**We select sustainable (local, organic, fair trade,humane) food options for all meetings and events”** by having a vegetable option for the pizza in lieu of pepperoni. Of course we would “notify the guests beforehand”

Sincerely, Vera Wiest and the Green Committee

**Dec.4, 2013** email-  
  
Please welcome our newest member Julia Aquino, student intern in the Yellow Room. As part of her legacy project requirement she has offered to help CYC obtain the Bronze level for the National Wildlife Federation's Eco-School program!   
  
http://www.nwf.org/eco-schools-usa.aspx  
  
I'm still putting together the information to submit for the Gold Office but I think we have it!

**September 23 Meeting,**

**Green Committee September 23,**

Attendees- Fran, Stef P. Sara, CiCi , Kristy and Vera

Yellow room is trying not to say “throw it away” to make it seem like less of  an option.

It was suggested that color coordinated cans helped children recognize which can was which.

Red needs a big blue recycle bin and small trash can for trash. They also need posters to go with it.

Green told their children if you can hear it, it is trash and rustled the wrapper.

Blue room could make a poster by gluing trash on a poster

Sally De Leon is willing to talk about the Universities Climate Action Plan. Need to ask Eric  if the PTA would like this talk. Also it was decided to have her talk to staff during naptime. The talk would be around 30 min. Need a date.

To complete the 1st and 5th requirement of the Green Office list we decided to set up a green office meeting for Oct 2. We will play a game by having the teacher’s read off the requirements for the Bronze, Silver and Gold award and staff will tally which ones they do at home. The first to get five will win a fair trade chocolate bar etc. Need to send out a memo to staff to save this date.

It was decided that the school would buy fair trade coffee and tea and put a donation cup in the kitchen to offset the extra cost.

Are the florescent bulbs in classrooms eco- friendly?

Sara talked about her electric car and how she uses no fuel to get to school.

Save Fuel week will be Oct 14 and we can talk about it at the PTA meeting. The prize would be the Ranger Rick Jr. magazine for each class.

We would like to continue the bring-your-own- dish to the International picnic too. Need a prize, maybe smoothies?

**August 21, 2013** Shannon Green sends and email to green our lunches-

It's That Time of Year Again!

When I asked my daughter, Kimsey, what she was most looking forward to upon her return to CYC this year she answered "Lunch!" While this may seem silly in comparison to all of the amazing experiences our children have at CYC, Kimsey quickly reminded me that she couldn't wait to use her new wean green snack cubes, her new personalized snack bag (from our fundraiser last year), and to weigh her class's lunch trash on Trash Free Tuesdays. In the spirit of back to school your Green Committee would like to share some tips and resources below to help inspire your eco-friendly lunch options! Please also be sure to check out the new playground rain barrel that was purchased with the funds raised during the sale of our snack bags last spring. Enjoy and **Go Green**!

Shannon Green (Mom of Kimsey, Blue Room and Gracyn, Green Room)

& the CYC Green Committee

**Green Lunch Tips:**

1) Use resusable lunch boxes and food storage containers.

2) Use cloth napkins instead of paper.

3) Avoid pre-packaged snack size items (e.g. purchase a tub of yogurt and pack a single serving in a glass container; purchase a large bag of pretzels and pack a serving in your child's cloth snack bag).

4) Pack real silverware rather than plastic.

5) Pack juice or water in a Kleen Kanteen or other re-usable water bottle and avoid disposable juice boxes and water bottles.

**Top 5 Eco-Friendly Lunch Boxes**: [http://voices.yahoo.com/go-green-top-5-eco-friendly-lunch-boxes-3795954.html](https://exch.mail.umd.edu/owa/redir.aspx?C=bC6LzNc7SkOxQxh6GRTk-fVpqcc7-dAI_vGerBwWhPnldske3rvYkciwvyQn6HApzPXaJgjCbAo.&URL=http%3a%2f%2fvoices.yahoo.com%2fgo-green-top-5-eco-friendly-lunch-boxes-3795954.html)

**Safe Mama's Lunch Gear Cheat Sheet:** [http://safemama.com/cheatsheets/safer-lunch-gear/](https://exch.mail.umd.edu/owa/redir.aspx?C=bC6LzNc7SkOxQxh6GRTk-fVpqcc7-dAI_vGerBwWhPnldske3rvYkciwvyQn6HApzPXaJgjCbAo.&URL=http%3a%2f%2fsafemama.com%2fcheatsheets%2fsafer-lunch-gear%2f)

**How to Pack an Eco-Friendly Lunch**: [http://life.gaiam.com/article/eco-friendly-ways-pack-lunch](https://exch.mail.umd.edu/owa/redir.aspx?C=bC6LzNc7SkOxQxh6GRTk-fVpqcc7-dAI_vGerBwWhPnldske3rvYkciwvyQn6HApzPXaJgjCbAo.&URL=http%3a%2f%2flife.gaiam.com%2farticle%2feco-friendly-ways-pack-lunch)

**Eco-Friendly Lunch Cost Comparison**: [http://www.wastefreelunches.org/what-is-a-waste-free-lunch-program.html](https://exch.mail.umd.edu/owa/redir.aspx?C=bC6LzNc7SkOxQxh6GRTk-fVpqcc7-dAI_vGerBwWhPnldske3rvYkciwvyQn6HApzPXaJgjCbAo.&URL=http%3a%2f%2fwww.wastefreelunches.org%2fwhat-is-a-waste-free-lunch-program.html)

**July 8, 2013- Email meeting**

Dear Committee Members,

I was taking stock into all the things we accomplished this past school year and it is a lot! Please see images and descriptions on the following page:

[http://greencyc.weebly.com/2012-2013.html](https://exch.mail.umd.edu/owa/redir.aspx?C=bC6LzNc7SkOxQxh6GRTk-fVpqcc7-dAI_vGerBwWhPnldske3rvYkciwvyQn6HApzPXaJgjCbAo.&URL=http%3a%2f%2fgreencyc.weebly.com%2f2012-2013.html)

This summer I am working with a group of 16 1st graders on a photography project and thought this might be a good time to see if the CYC could attempt to become nationally eco-school certified through the National Wildlife Federation program.

[https://www.nwf.org/Eco-Schools-USA.aspx](https://exch.mail.umd.edu/owa/redir.aspx?C=bC6LzNc7SkOxQxh6GRTk-fVpqcc7-dAI_vGerBwWhPnldske3rvYkciwvyQn6HApzPXaJgjCbAo.&URL=https%3a%2f%2fwww.nwf.org%2fEco-Schools-USA.aspx)

For this award there are 7 steps. The first is to form a committee which we already have. The second is an audit involving 10 domains including, energy, water, healthy schools, consumption and waste etc. Children are supposed to be involved in this audit. This is a problem during the school year because it is a difficult task for kindergarteners and younger to accomplish.

Because of this, I took the opportunity to have these older just-finished-first-graders do it. Many of these children were in the CYC Green Committee when they were in kindergarten which helped with the continuity.

During summer camp we are devoting **1 meeting a week to our green committee** and tying it into our photography study. The children are now analyzing the audit to come up with a project that can help fulfill the requirements for a bronze eco-school award.

Here is a link to the audit process and a downloadable version of it.

[https://www.nwf.org/Eco-Schools-USA/Become-an-Eco-School/Steps/Environmental-Audit.aspx](https://exch.mail.umd.edu/owa/redir.aspx?C=bC6LzNc7SkOxQxh6GRTk-fVpqcc7-dAI_vGerBwWhPnldske3rvYkciwvyQn6HApzPXaJgjCbAo.&URL=https%3a%2f%2fwww.nwf.org%2fEco-Schools-USA%2fBecome-an-Eco-School%2fSteps%2fEnvironmental-Audit.aspx)

I am asking you for any input and to see if you feel this is a worthwhile endeavor to pursue or did I already bite off more than I can chew? Do you have any ideas for projects that we have not already addressed?

Sincerely,

 Vera Wiest

**January 5, 2013** email sent out after Kindergarten Green Committee meeting

At the Green Committee meeting Friday we talked about initiating a Trash Free Tuesday where everyone tries to bring less trash in their lunch. I think I mentioned this to you already.

We thought about having the Kindergarten Green Committee (KGC) weigh everybody’s trash next Tuesday before it starts and then the next Tuesday after it is in place. Maybe they could do it for a few weeks and graph the results to be shown in the front lobby.

To do this, all the classes would collect their trash after lunch (in a hot lunch aluminum pan) and set it outside of the classroom. The KGC could pick it up after nap and weigh it all together on a scale the Green Room teachers have.

I do not want to burden you with more activities, I am willing to help them gather the trash and weigh it, even make the graph with them if you don’t want to.  Maybe they could even make posters like they did for the use-less-fuel-week at a writer’s workshop.

I talked to Amy about this already. Also I would like to try and make granola bars or energy bars with your kids sometime just as an example of what you can do instead of buying the prepackaged ones, if you wouldn't mind.

Let me know how much of this you want to do or how much of it is a pain.

**January 4, 2013** Meeting about Trash Free Tuesdays all were in agreement

**November 2, 2012** email meeting

Dear Families and Staff,

Congratulations! The Kindergarten just finished counting the chips and 110 people brought their own plates/cups and utensils to the International picnic! Our goal was for 25. The children definitely earned a popsicle party which should happen sometime next week after I get a chance to purchase them.

Look for the final graph completed by the Kindergarten in the front lobby. Thank you to everyone for doing their part in taking care of our planet.

On another note, we have been chosen to pilot the Gold Office award since we were the first to finish the Silver Office award at the entire University. The Gold Office award is so new that they have not completed writing the requirements yet so we will have to wait and see how difficult it will be to achieve.

**September 18, 2012**

In attendance: Fran, Kristy, Cici, Stef P., Vera

We went over the Silver office requirements one by one to decide which we thought we feasibly do.

It was determined that we already did: 1,2,3, 7, 8, 9, 13, 18, 20, and 21

We need to focus on 5 more. We picked:

**--4.  We formally challenged another office to participate in the Green Office Program.**

**Fran will challenge one of the researcher’s offices. Lidz sounded interested when I had a brief conversation at pick-up time with him.**

**--5.  We have replaced our old power strips with “smart” power strips.**

**Fran gave permission to purchase these. Vera will buy them.**

**--11.  We host sustainability special events (such as potlucks, films, lunch and learns).**

**It was decided to start with the International Picnic Oct. 27. The PTA agreed. Also we will have compost bins and recycle bins there.**

**Also we are interested in doing Save Fuel Week again and having a school wide Trash free Tuesdays with a new Kindergarten Green Committee helping out.**

**We talked about having a book exchange during the annual book sale December 7th. Books that do not get used could be donated. Need to talk with whoever is in charge of this. Maybe the kindergarten green committee can sponsor this.**

**--15.  Our employees take advantage of teleworking opportunities, where appropriate.**

**Do this on the next report writing day or snow day. Could have teachers check in. Fran agreed to this. Which days? November 9 and April 12?**

**--17.  We buy recycled and environmentally friendly office products such as file folders, note pads, Post-It notes, desk accessories, etc.**

**Jennifer is now buying recycled paper (that is part of requirement 20) and we reuse file folders and inter-department envelopes. We will place a bin by the copy and printing machines to collect one sided paper to reuse for printing or notepads. We reuse desk accessories found in the closet. We need to look into post-it notes.**

**Many classrooms have recycle Friday and only use recycled paper. All classrooms have a recycle box for reusing paper etc.**

More-

--Would the PTA buy us a rain barrel?

--Have the staff leave form online and maybe be accepted online and put on an online calendar. Ask Anne. Vera could start the Calendar.

**February 6, 2012 email-**

Dear Green Committee,

This may seem like a lot to read but hopefully it should take a lot less of your time than gathering for a meeting.

**New Committee Member**

Please welcome a new undergrad student to our committee, Sabra Bushey. She currently works in the Kindergarten room as a student aid. Ms. Bushey studies Environmental Science.

**Compost Refresher**

Last week Greg Thompson came by and gave the teacher’s a refresher course on composting. Thanks Greg.

**Bronze Office Award**

January 26th the Staff of the CYC worked hard and completed the Bronze Office challenge from Sustainability at the UM.

**Garden Consultant**

We have been in contact with the Rochelle Bartolomei, from Chesapeake Natives, to come and assess our gardens as a consultant.

**Maryland Day**

Maryland Day is set up to be a “Green Festival” at the CYC. Our puppet show will be the Three Pigs Recycle, Mr. M will sing environmental songs, we will have several displays for visitors to see with teaching environmental themes and packing a trash-free lunch and hopefully the many gardens around the CYC will be looking their best.

**MAEOE Conference**

This coming weekend Cici Fowler and Stef Penland will attend the MAEOE conference in Ocean City. When they return they will share their new gained knowledge with us.

**Application Send Off**

I believe our application is ready to send off. If all of you could take a brief look at the online version and see if the documentation links makes sense, and that the layout is clear and easy to read, that would be greatly appreciated. I’m sure there are plenty of miss spelled words and typos too. You can find it at:

http://greencyc.weebly.com/

Ideally I would like to send it off after Cici and Stef come back from the conference next week in case they have any new insight on what more needs to be included.

The MAEOE link to the Green School requirements is:

[http://www.maeoe.org/greenschools/application/index.php](https://exch.mail.umd.edu/owa/redir.aspx?C=bC6LzNc7SkOxQxh6GRTk-fVpqcc7-dAI_vGerBwWhPnldske3rvYkciwvyQn6HApzPXaJgjCbAo.&URL=http%3a%2f%2fwww.maeoe.org%2fgreenschools%2fapplication%2findex.php)

Sincerely, Vera