

## **FEBRUARY GREEN TEAM TEACHER RESOURCE REFERENCE**

**Get an "A" for excellence when you're  
100% waste-free at lunch!**

**Green Team targets waste-free lunches!**

**It has been estimated that, on average, a single school-age child generates 67 pounds of lunchtime waste per school year. That equates to approximately 40,000 pounds of waste per year for Roosevelt! Every single piece of packaging or excess food that we eliminate from the waste stream makes a difference.**

### **Facts:**

1. Landfills across the country are reaching capacity. New landfills are built farther from the source of waste, leading to increased disposal fees, truck traffic, air pollution and wear and tear on local roads.
2. Recycling alone will not end our dependency on landfills and incinerators.
3. Incinerators cause toxic materials to be released into the environment, causing health issues for people and animals.
4. We need to rethink and reduce the amount of resources we use.

### **Suggested Discussion Ideas**

**How can we reduce the amount of waste at lunch time?**

1. Pack lunch in reusable containers. Use a refillable drink bottle, a cloth napkin, and reusable utensils.
2. Cut down on packaging and food waste by purchasing snack items in bulk. Put individual portions in your own containers.
3. Purchase locally grown produce which requires no packaging and reduces transportation/energy costs.
4. Search out recycle bins instead of tossing recyclables in the trash.
5. Kids tell parents what kind and how much food they would like for lunch.

**Websites:** [www.wastefreelunches.org](http://www.wastefreelunches.org)  
[www.lunchlessons.com](http://www.lunchlessons.com)  
[www.greenamericatoday.org](http://www.greenamericatoday.org)