

GREEN GAZETTE

Voice of the PCCS Green Team

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Spring Cleaning!

By Alex and Griffin

We all like to clean our homes in the spring. Yet most people's cleaning supplies have toxic chemicals that can be dangerous and bad for your health. However, there is a better way to clean your house. You can use basic household products such as vinegar, baking soda, olive oil, and newspapers to clean your house in a safer and more eco-friendly way.



Green Cleaning Tips:

Tip 1: You can make a cleaner that can clean tile, countertops, and non-carpeted floors. You need Tea tree oil, lemon extract or zest, and lavender oil. Put 1 quart of water in a bowl. Put 10 drops of lemon extract or zest into the bowl with 20 drops of tea tree oil. Add lavender oil until you like the smell.

Tip 2: You can clean your carpet with baking soda. Simply sprinkle some baking soda onto your carpet. Then sweep it around for a couple of minutes. Let it sit for a little, and then vacuum it up. It reduces bad smells in the carpet.

Tip 3: You can use vinegar and water to clean your windows. Put ¼ cup of vinegar and 1 quart of water in a spray bottle; spray it on the window. Then you can wipe it down with an old newspaper.

Tip 4: You can make a cleaner for wood furniture with an equal amount of lemon juice and olive oil. Then put it on a rag and swipe away on the furniture with equal strokes.

Tip 5: Make your house smell like the great outdoors. Choose your favorite fruit and herb and boil them. Add a few drops of essential oil to the boiling water and (wallah) you will have your house smelling wonderful in no time.

Miniature Gardens Grow

This past Saturday, February 11, Muir hall was visited by over 60 people. Each of them participated in making a miniature or fairy garden from ideas of other people or their own. Each garden was unique in its own way.

Miniature garden expert Ms. Plucinski stated, "The event was very whimsical. All the participants were so creative and the energy in the room was contagious. We hope more families will be able to join us at our next workshop."

Green team member Grace Andrews said, "Every age can do it from young to old."

The event was a complete success. The Green Team hopes each family will have their garden for years to come!



One of the very creative miniature gardens created on February 11!

Owl Prowl Revisited

The Green Team's Owl Prowl, which was on December 21st, 2016, was great. Fifty-eight people attended and participated in the event. Three students read the book *Owl Moon* written by Jane Yolen. After the book was read, most people ventured outside and called for owls. These brave individuals trekked into the cold and snow. They called for owls but none called back. That is okay; as Jane Yolen told us in *Owl Moon*, "sometimes there's an owl and sometimes there isn't."

The rest of the families stayed inside and learned how to dissect owl pellets. Seven people stayed inside to dissect owl pellets. Most of the pellets had a skull inside. There was a plethora of hair-thin bones. All of the bones ranged from mice to voles. By dissecting the owl pellets we were able to figure out the owl's diet.

Keep an eye out for details about our Composting program coming in Early April! Families will create a worm composting system to take home!