

Rationale for the Environmental Club:

The environmental club is an intricate part of the P.C.T.I. community. In the past two years our club is one of if not the largest club (student enrollment & participation) on campus. We are an academic club that shows a connection with curriculum and our daily lives. Next year the school will be offering all incoming freshmen environmental science. This club will not only offer students a chance for more “hands on” activities, it will offer practice and problem based learning that will be on the New Jersey State Biology End of The Year Assessment Test. We are building strong ties throughout the academic community. Currently, we have worked with the culinary arts, landscape architecture, wood and metal shops. We strive in giving back to not only the school but to the Passaic County Community. Students in our club have already started outreach programs with the not for profit organization City Green. I’m currently working with them on a program that will work with more of our students and their communities. Last year P.C.T.I. acknowledged the need to expand our drive, understanding, and commitment to the environment and how we need to instill that into our students and staff. That is why P.C.T.I.’s “Blue Goes Green” campaign was so successful! With the current environmental issues we are facing, it is very important that we do not take a step back but that we take a leap forward and continue instilling the environmental stewardship and values that the environmental club offers.

Tim Reilly
Environmental Club Advisor

Activities achieved by PCTI Environmental Club

- Creation of bat houses and the study of the “white-nose disease” that is killing them.
- Working with the NJ Department of Fish & Game in the study, raising and releasing of brook trout.
- Creation of indoor planters to not only enhance the esthetic value of the school but to purify the indoor atmosphere from harmful gases that tend to accumulate in large buildings.
- Raising and studying various frog and salamander species that are starting to become rare in NJ.
- Planting perennials on the campus and understanding water usage and climate type.

- Raising money for Rainforest preservation in the Yucatan Peninsula.
- Successful hiking excursions to the Ramapo Mountains where students studied various communities of plants, animals and fungi and their relationships.
- Recycling of over 250 cell phones, 1000 CD's, and 125 printer cartridges.
- Recycling over 3000 batteries
- Organizing Earth Day "awareness" each year in April

Works In Progress:

- Initial contact with volunteering with the local Paterson Habitat for Humanity.
- Passaic River Clean-up
- Enhancing recycling techniques at the school (installing top feeders to all blue paper recycling bins so only paper is placed in it).
- Students building park benches with recycled materials.
- Wildlife camera that is currently being installed on campus that will send images to school website.
- **Grant pending:** Organic Urban Gardening
- **Grant pending:** Polaroid, "Our world through a lens"
- **Grant pending:** PSE&G energy studies