



**EVANSTON/SKOKIE**  
SCHOOL DISTRICT 65

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Every Child, Every Day, Whatever it Takes

# D65 Climate Action Community Meeting

April 11, 2023

# Agenda



- ❑ Welcome and Land Acknowledgement (Marie, Beth, Sylvia)
- ❑ D65 Sustainability Update (Karen Bireta, Sustainability Coordinator)
- ❑ D65 Teacher Share by Ms. Romaniuk and Ms. Patel: Happiness Lesson
- ❑ 2023 Earth Month Updates (Karen)
- ❑ 10 Second Film Festival (Marie)
- ❑ Save the Date: our next community meeting

# Land Acknowledgement

We now invite everyone to acknowledge and pay respect to the traditional custodians of the land on which we are meeting today. Recognizing that we are on stolen land is important because it acknowledges that the present United States is a collection of territories and land purchases accumulated by genocide. We are thankful to be able to be here and have this event. We ask that everyone be conscious of their place on the native lands of North America and our role in colonialism. Remembering the history, and honoring the contributions and traditions of indigenous peoples is one step towards fighting their erasure. We pay respect to the Elders past and present and extend our recognition to their descendants.



# D65 Sustainability Update

Karen Bireta  
Sustainability Coordinator





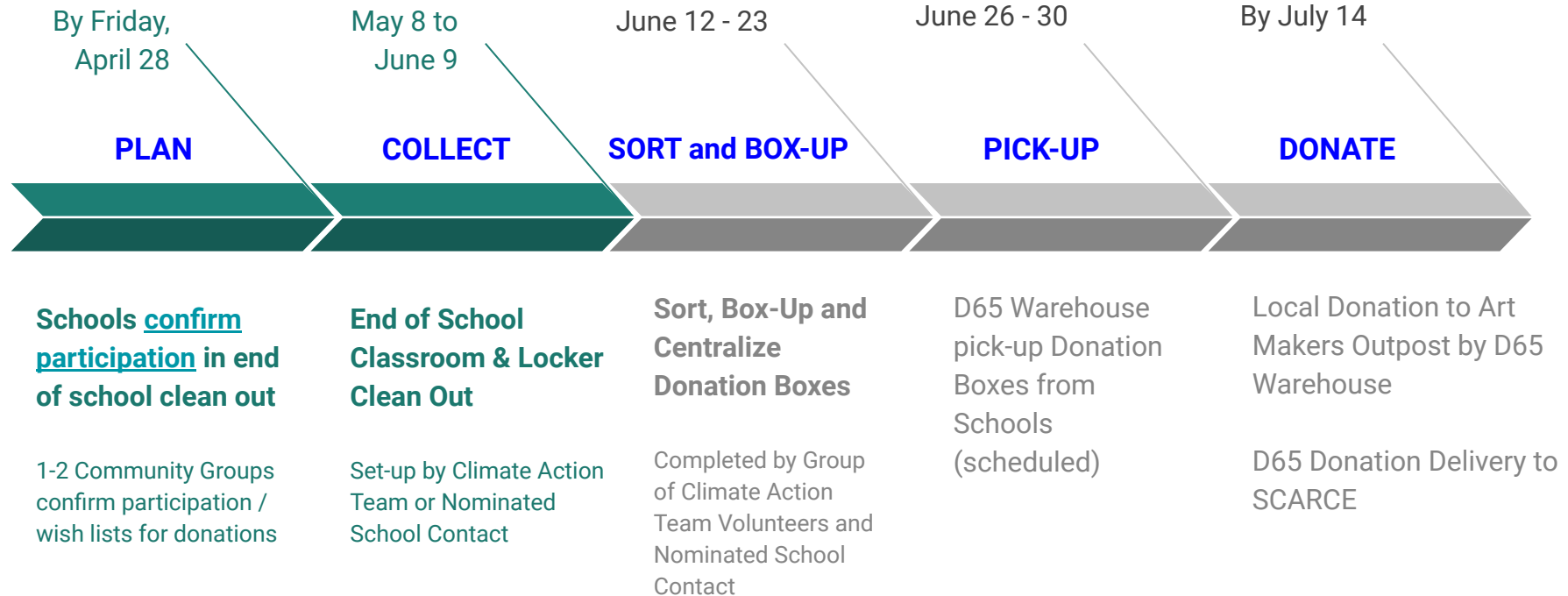
# Renew America's Schools Grant



Pursuing a grant with U.S. Department of Energy, Energy Improvements at Public K-12 School Facilities - Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (BIL) - Renew America's Schools.

- ★ Submitted our Concept Paper submitted on January 26th.
- ★ Proposing upgrades at **7 school buildings** based on age and highest need for energy efficiency upgrades for a total **funding request of \$11,759,000**.
- ★ **We're in the process of submitting a Full Application by April 21.**

# 2023 End of School Classroom & Locker Clean Out



# 2023 End of School Classroom & Locker Clean Out



## Completed so far:

- Asking schools to sign-up via School Leaders Newsletter
- Identified local organization to donate: Artmakers Outpost
- Identified regional organization to donate: SCARCE
- Created [D65 Guidance Manual](#)

## In Progress:

- Creating canva flyers
- Recruiting ETHS student volunteers

## What you can do:

1. Engage with your school - participate?  
set-up school supply swap closet?  
point person to lead?
2. Start saving collection boxes
3. Locations to set-up collection stations  
around the school with custodians
4. Develop plan to spread the word at  
your school
5. Opportunity to invite your school  
families to pick-up supplies during  
SORT and BOX-UP?

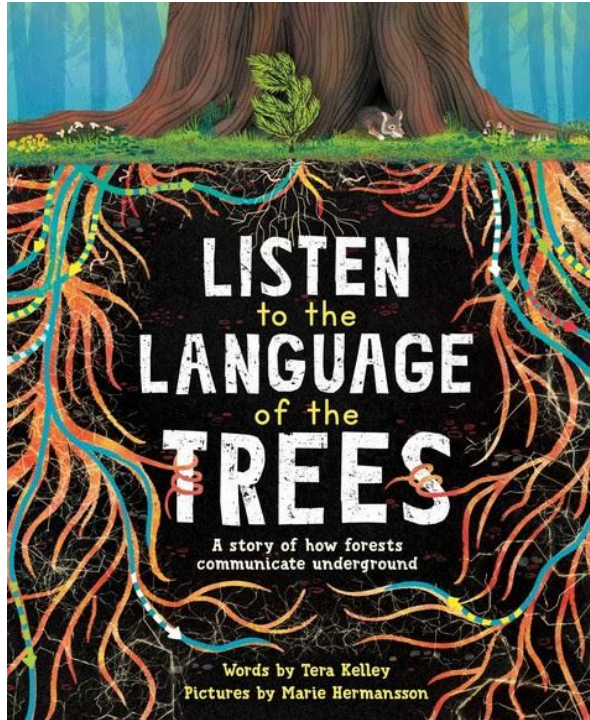
# D65 Schools: Collaboration and Approval Process for Plantings and School Food Gardens



Applies to: New Tree and Native Plants at Schools. Request for New or Major Renovations to School Food Gardens.

Idea: Plan & Share	School Collaboration	Prep for Planting	Planting	Keep it Growing
<p><b>Summarize idea for new plantings</b></p> <p><b><u>Google Form</u></b> to submit idea to School principal, assistant principal and head custodian with Buildings and Grounds Team CC'ed</p> <p>See next 2 slides for planning considerations</p>	<p><b>School reviews idea (target 2 weeks)</b></p> <p>Summarized idea reviewed by School:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Principal</li><li>- Asst. Principal</li><li>- Head Custodian</li></ul> <p>Share any feedback, concerns with idea team. Coordinate on logistics &amp; next steps.</p>	<p><b>Update Plans &amp; Prep</b></p> <p>Idea team update plans based on school feedback.</p> <p>Idea team preps for planting:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Locate utilities (JULIE) and Head Custodian</li><li>- Obtain plants / trees / supplies</li></ul> <p>Provide approved support from school / D65.</p>	<p><b>Plant Trees &amp; Natives!</b></p> <p>Idea team plants new trees and/or native plants.</p> <p>Add fencing, signage, protections for new plants from landscapers &amp; kids.</p> <p>Celebrate &amp; share photos with school community.</p>	<p><b>Watering</b></p> <p>Idea team sets up watering system to keep plants &amp; trees growing.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Timers on water hoses</li><li>- Tree watering bags</li></ul> <p>Periodically check on fencing and protections for plants &amp; trees.</p>

# 2022 EPL Blueberry Award Winners



Check out the whole [2022 Blueberry List with 33 books for kids from 3 years old through 5th grade and up](#). Get the very best in nature and climate books for your kids; raise up citizen scientists, activists, and leaders for our future!

Swing by the Main Library or the Robert Crown Branch Library to pick up some books and get the flyer as your guide to the best of kids' "nature and climate" literature.





A top-down view of a wooden desk cluttered with school supplies. In the top left, there's a small jar of brown ink and two dark pens. A yellow pencil lies diagonally across the center. To its right is a black pencil sharpener and some wood shavings. In the top right, an open notebook with lined pages is visible. Below it is a black leather pencil case. In the bottom left, a white cup of black ink sits next to a small notepad with 'To Do List' written on it. In the bottom center, a spiral-bound notebook is open. In the bottom right, a small white pot contains a green succulent. The background is a dark, textured wooden surface.

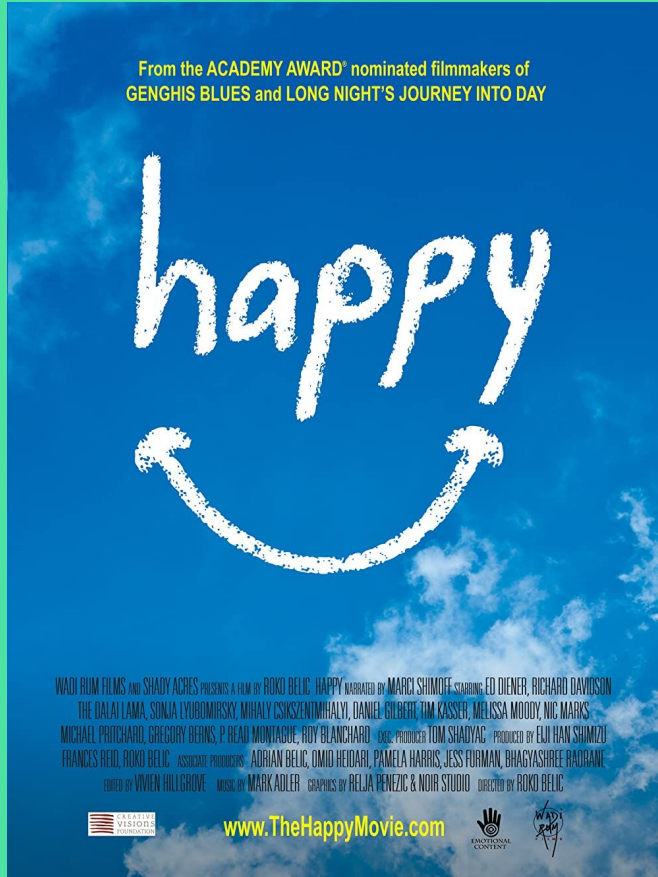
# Argument Unit

## Focusing on Happiness

Haven Middle School:

Seventh Grade English/Language Arts

Essential Question: How much are people responsible for their own happiness and well being?




# Unit Overview

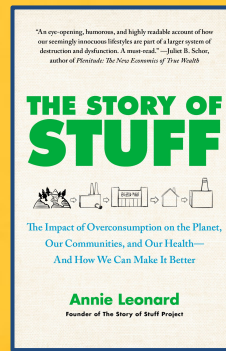
- Writing & reading gratitude letters
- ← View the documentary “Happy” directed by Roko Belic, a Haven alum
- Extrinsic and intrinsic motivators
- Read articles/research about:
  - Volunteering
  - Gratitude
  - Practicing hygge
  - Social media/screen time
  - Money/winning the lottery
  - Acts of kindness
  - Meditation
  - Physical activity/sports
  - Being in the flow
  - New experiences
  - Self-care/self-improvement
  - Connections/friends and family
  - Spending time in nature
  - Co-housing communities
  - Spending money on experiences, not things
  - Tidying
  - Downsizing
  - Sustainability
  - Pets/animals
  - Quality sleep
- Students craft an argument paper focusing on the topics above



# THE STORY OF



## WITH ANNIE LEONARD



### Interested in More?

- Story of Electronics
- Story of Microbeads
- Story of Bottled Water
- Story of Cosmetics
- Story of Change
- Story of Broke
- Story of Microfibers

### President Bush Video

\*Short on time? Stop at 13 min.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ 2-3-2023

Exit Ticket

In what ways does "The Story of Stuff" video sum up our unit's focus?  
What did you think? What surprised you or stuck with you? Please respond in a paragraph form (full sentences). Fill in all the lines, please.

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\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

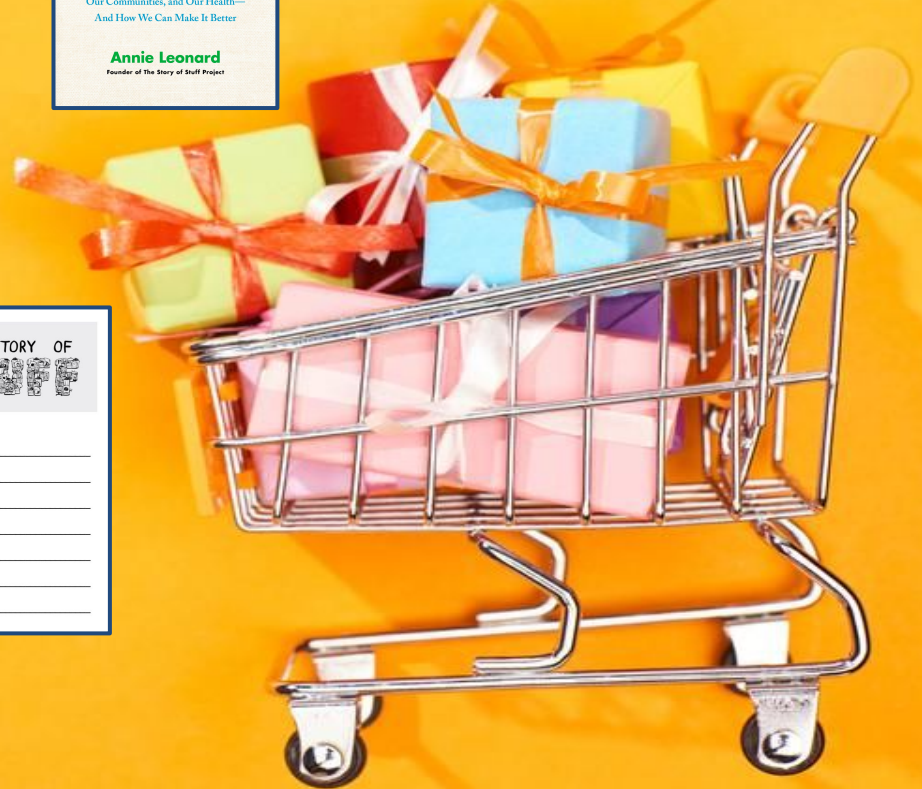
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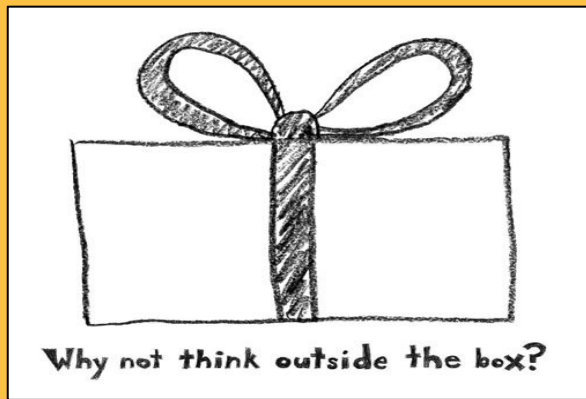
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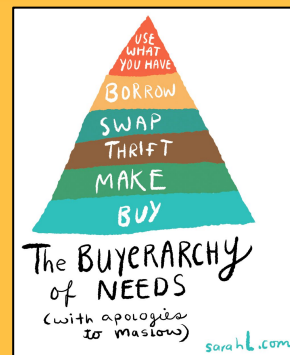
THE STORY OF  
**STUFF**





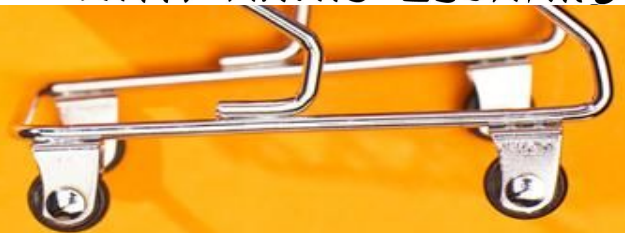
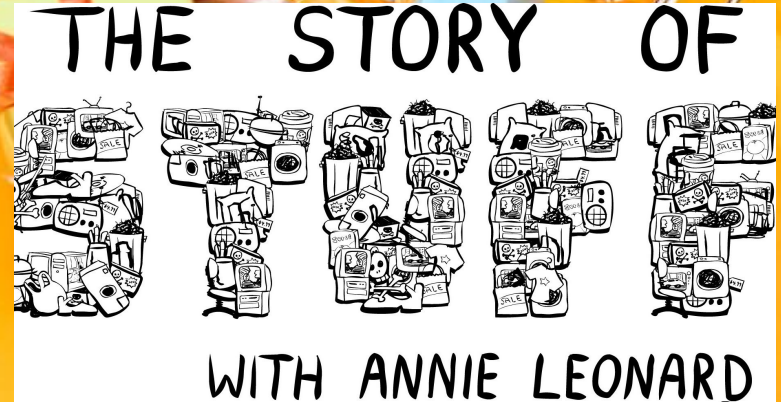


# CONSUMERISM



## Student Quotes:

- “We are living by destroying nature.”
- “I am in deep shock. Not sure if I want to buy things anymore. It’s a scam.”
- “Maybe we just keep giving them our money because we want to feel something.”
- “Spend more money on vacations and experiences instead of stuff.”
- “Americans’ self-happiness is harming the world as a whole.”





# Less Stuff, More Happiness



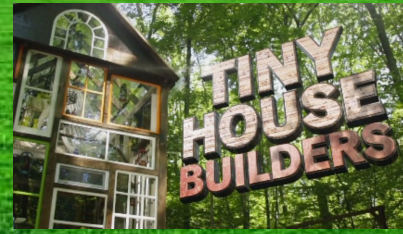
~6 min.



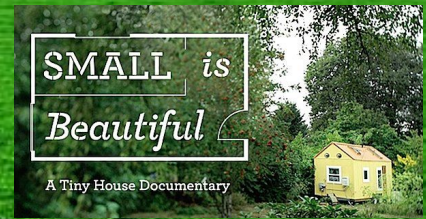
The Trend: ~1 minute



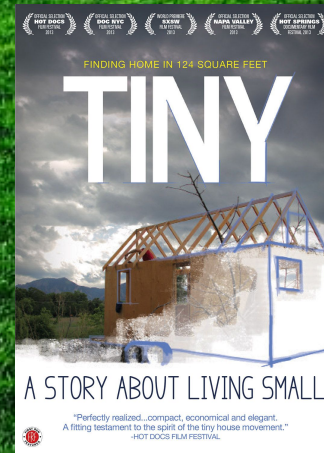
One Example: ~2 minutes



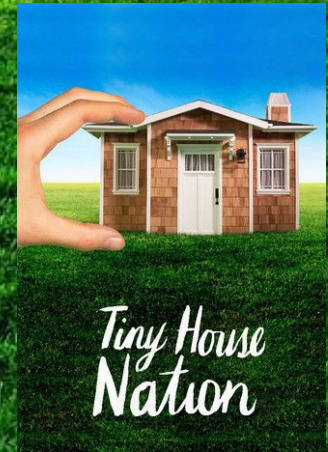
[Building a Tiny Home ~10 min.](#)



[Trailer ~2 min.](#)

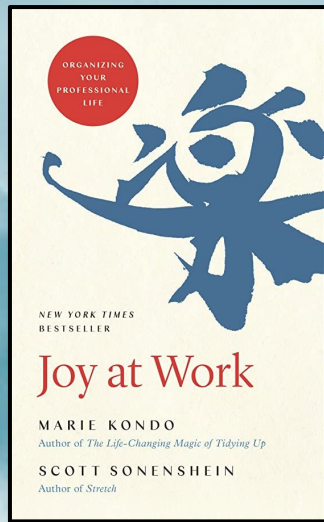
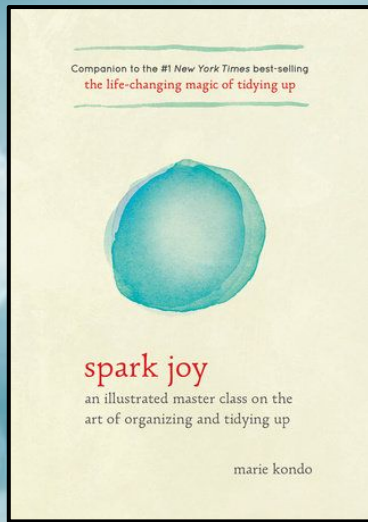
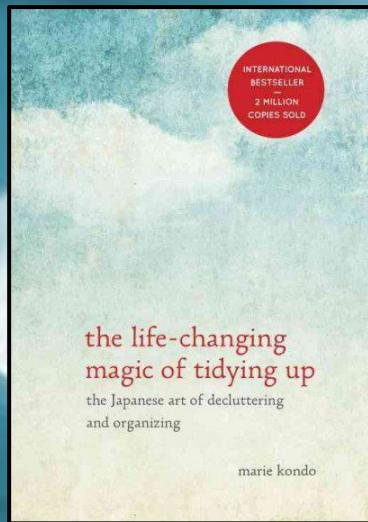


[Documentary Preview:](#)  
~3 minutes



[~30 seconds](#)





# Marie Kondo



Does it Bring Me  
Joy?

Queen of clean Marie Kondo says she has 'kind of given up' on tidying at home

Decluttering guru reveals birth of third child has changed priorities



# *Students Tidying*

BEFORE



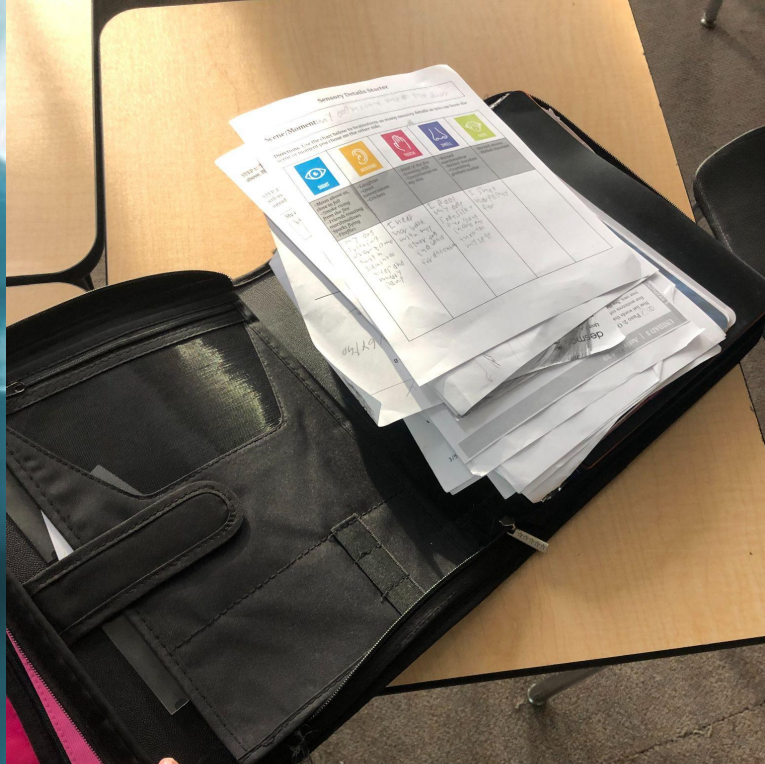
AFTER



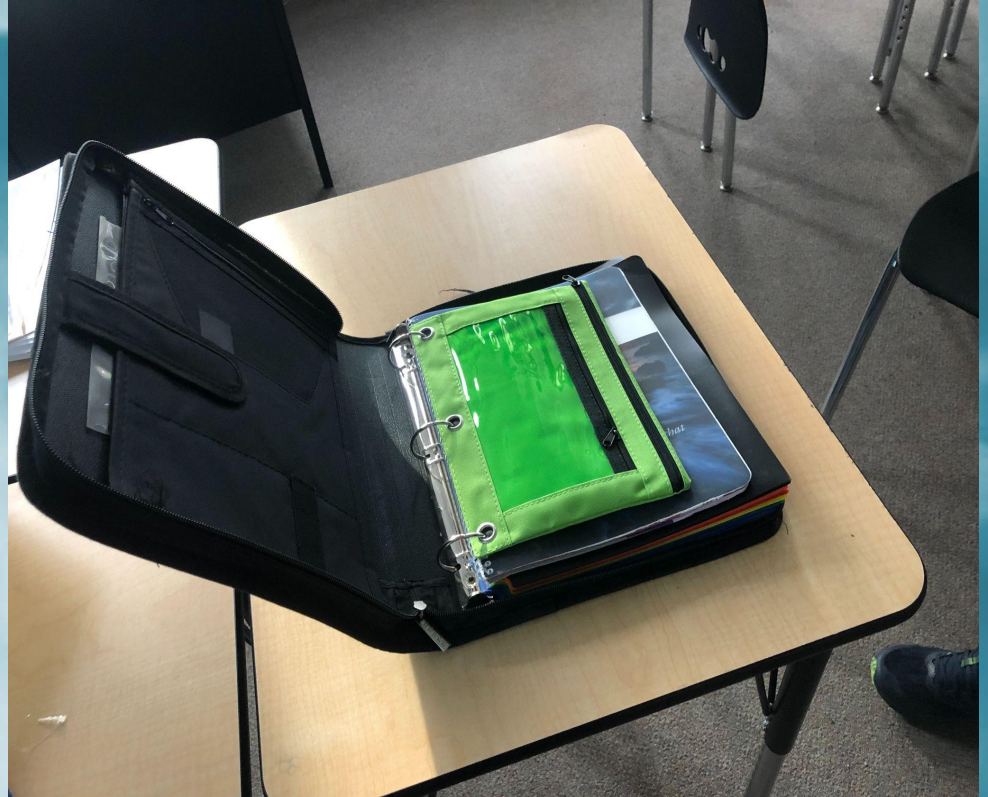


# Students Organizing-Executive Functions Club

BEFORE



AFTER



# *Students Organizing-Executive Functions Club*

BEFORE



AFTER







Marie Cabiya and Bea Echeverria  
2/23/23

CITIZENS' GREENER EVANSTON & EVANSTON PUBLIC LIBRARY



COME AND GET HELP REPAIRING YOUR ITEMS FOR FREE

## Evanston Repair Café

2ND AND 4TH TUESDAY OF THE MONTH, 10AM-12PM:  
SMALL APPLIANCES, SEWING AND JEWELRY REPAIR...  
AND JEWELRY MAKING!!

2ND SATURDAY OF THE MONTH, 10AM-1PM:  
SMALL APPLIANCES, BIKES, SEWING, JEWELRY AND ELECTRONICS



Use QR code \* call 847 448 8101 \* [epl.org/repair](http://epl.org/repair) to find dates and to register. Walk-ins welcome

ROBERT CROWN LIBRARY BRANCH-1801 MAIN ST., EVANSTON



# From a Student's Essay

Studies actually show that all of the stuff we buy leaves us in debt, has a huge negative environmental impact, and in the long run, makes us less happy. So how do we fix this? Graham Hill discovered downsizing. He got rid of the junk he did not use, bought an apartment half the size, and got furniture that transformed from a sofa to a bed to a table (Hill). By doing this, he significantly reduced his carbon footprint and saved money. We need money for food, shelter, and healthcare, so not having to worry about that can make you happier. Plus, caring for the environment gives a lot of people joy. Simplicity pays off, literally. Manoj Singh, a rickshaw driver from Kolkata, India is a perfect example of focusing on simplicity. He has a hard job that does not pay much but he is just as happy as an average American. He says that, “When I look at my son, I feel like the richest man on earth” (“Happy”). Manoj does not need lots of things or money to be happy. He just needs his family. He is living proof that joy comes from a simple, fruitful life. According to this abundance of evidence, spending money on others, not more space or useless junk, makes us happier by forcing us to focus on simplicity.

*-Kate Mcquade 7th Grader, Haven Middle School*

# Student Sustainability Group



# 2023 Earth Month Activities



## Classroom Engagement

Eco Heroes and Eco Tips  
google slides and handout  
([English and Spanish](#))

Encourage Teachers to  
share with their  
classrooms daily during  
Earth Week (April 17-21)



## School Climate Action Project

Encourage each school to do a  
[school-wide project](#) - in  
development: offer categories of  
[climate action project ideas](#), a school  
can pick 1 to do during Earth Month  
(April)

**10 Schools hosting Climate Action  
Projects**



## Community Event

10 Second Film Festival

Friday, April 21, 2023  
Rotary International

[Website](#)

# D65 Sustainability Resources



Check out the following resources!

- ★ [D65 Sustainability Focus: 22-23 School Year](#)
- ★ [D65 Guidance for Climate Action at Schools: 22-23 School Year Sustainability Focus](#)
- ★ Karen Bireta, Sustainability Coordinator [biretak@district65.net](mailto:biretak@district65.net)

Growing our D65 Climate Action Community at every D65 school!

Please update or add contacts to this school year's [contact list!](#)

- ★ Climate Action Team chairs / committee members
- ★ Garden Team leads
- ★ Climate Clubs
- ★ Teachers / Staff passionate about sustainability
- ★ PTA emails
- ★ School PTA emails to Families



**Hope to  
see you  
there!**

# D65 CLIMATE ACTION COMMUNITY MEETING

May 16, 2023

6:30–7:30pm at King Arts Library



## **Agenda:**

- D65 Sustainability Update
- End of School Classroom and Locker Clean Out
- Positive Impact this School Year, including schools sharing sustainability spotlights



*Thank You!*