



# GRASSHOPPER TALK

A Monthly Newsletter for Educators



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## AB/C CLEAN CAMPUS CONTEST JR. HIGH & MIDDLE SCHOOL

Angelina Beautiful Clean recently conducted "Clean Campus" checks at all Jr. High and Middle Schools in Angelina County. Judges were looking for beautiful campuses with student lead environmental projects including recycling programs and litter awareness activities. AB/C volunteers also evaluated campuses on the cleanliness and neatness of the outside grounds, walkways, and interiors. The final decision for this category was made based on recycling efforts and environmental projects. This year, AB/C chose Huntington Middle School as the 2006-2007 Clean Campus winners in the Jr. High category. Their recycling efforts include aluminum cans and tabs, paper, plastic, cell phones and ink jet cartridges. HMS is also aware of conserving energy and has had a large campaign on their campus to turn off lights and adjust thermostats. The Student Council also maintains a centrally located bulletin board to keep students and staff abreast of ongoing and new environmental projects. HMS received \$200 to be used towards environmental projects and programs and the AB/C Clean Campus banner to be displayed on their campus.

## ECO CAMP 2007 JUNE 11<sup>th</sup> – 15<sup>th</sup>

AB/C has set the date for our annual ECO CAMP! The second full week of June, the 11th through the 15th has been chosen. AB/C pays the teachers \$100 and your kids get to come for free! I plan and provide everything. Teachers just show up at 8:45 each morning and leave at 12:00. Science, Music/Storytelling, Snack, Games, and Art are the activities. Let me hear from you if this sounds interesting!!

## "DON'T MESS WITH TEXAS" TRASH-OFF SATURDAY, APRIL 14<sup>th</sup>

The cleanup will begin at 8:30am on Saturday, April 14<sup>th</sup>. Adopt-A-Highway and Adopt-A-Street groups will meet at their regular pick-up sites and a crew leader will meet you at your location. Adopt-A-Highway groups must obtain cleanup supplies from the Texas Department of Transportation. All other participants will be contacted by Angelina Beautiful/Clean and will be given an assigned location based upon needs of the county and groups participating. Following the cleanup all volunteers are invited to enjoy refreshments provided by Angelina Beautiful/Clean at the Angelina County Chamber of Commerce. **\$300 in prize money will be awarded in each community based on the number of active participants in your group.** The top three active groups will win prize money! If there is a tie, the prize money will be split. **Each volunteer MUST wear gloves in order to be counted as a "participating volunteer."** Please **BRING gloves!**

## "PASS THE BAG" 10<sup>th</sup>, 11<sup>th</sup>, & 12<sup>th</sup> GRADES

This exciting High School project is ongoing throughout the county. This project focuses on litter awareness and litter prevention. "Pass the Bag" is accomplished by passing garbage bags down the rows of the bleachers at a sporting event. A student group gathers the bags at the end of the row and disposes of the trash! Don't forget soccer and baseball season!!



## FOREST AWARENESS TOUR APRIL 30<sup>TH</sup> – MAY 4<sup>TH</sup>

AB/C partners with the Texas Forest Service to bring this outdoor project to LMS 8<sup>th</sup> graders and the 7<sup>th</sup> graders in the county. The tour is held at the Texas Forest Service's outdoor classroom area on Hwy 94. Six stations are set up around the property and each station is lead by Forestry personnel. The students bring sack lunches and eat outdoors. In years past, Hudson, Lufkin, Diboll, and Central have participated, bringing over 1,000 kids to the forest during the week!

### WEBSITE

A copy of the "Trash Talk" newsletter will be sent via email and available on our website. Please distribute the newsletter to all the teachers on your campus by email or paper copy! Hopefully less paper! Less cost! Check out our website!

### BE COOL!!! RECYCLE AT SCHOOL



The following schedule is still in place for recycling pick up:  
Thursday AM –  
Brandon, Brookhollow,  
Dunbar, Garrett, Slack,  
and Trout. Friday AM –  
Lufkin High School,  
Lufkin Middle School,  
Anderson, Coston,  
Hackney, Herty, Kurth,

St. Patrick Catholic School, Pineywoods Academy, and Harmony Christian School. I encourage each classroom teacher to have the kids create collection bins/boxes to collect recyclables in their classroom. The rules have changed a little. **No bags are necessary!** Just put **ALL** your recyclables into the blue cart. White paper, newspaper, aluminum cans, and clean plastics can all be commingled. If your campus has a separate cardboard dumpster please continue to use it for cardboard. Environmental Conservation is part of the TEKS!!! This is a great way to teach those valuable lessons!!



## ARBOR DAY POSTER CONTEST UPDATE

The first round of voting was conducted last week! Our Southeast Texas Region had 28 entries! If each 5<sup>th</sup> grade campus submitted their winning poster, we could have had 14 entries! Our Region is made up of 20+ counties so I hope we were well represented! The second and third rounds of voting will be conducted later in March.

## ARBOR DAY CEREMONY UPDATE ST. CYPRIAN'S – FEBRUARY 8<sup>TH</sup>

This year's ceremony was a huge success! The musical and poetic presentations by the students were great! AB/C Campus Coordinator, Lynne Hollowell, Beverly Mahan, and Karen Greer did a wonderful job with the children. Thanks so much for hosting the 2007 City of Lufkin Arbor Day Ceremony!



## EARTH DAY GROCERY SACKS 2<sup>ND</sup> GRADE

AB/C and Brookshire Bros. have once again partnered to bring you this Earth Day project. Each 2<sup>nd</sup> grade teacher in Angelina County will receive an Earth Day Grocery Sack Project poster with additional activities and resources on the back. The kids are free to decorate their bag with any earth friendly illustration and message. **I will pick the bags up from your school office on the morning of Tuesday, April 10<sup>th</sup> and deliver them to the Brookshire Bros. closest to your school.** Brookshire Bros. will use the decorated bags to celebrate Earth Day. This project is a wonderful opportunity for our youth to cooperate with a local business to share a positive environmental message with our community! Check this nation wide project out on the web @ [www.earthdaybags.org](http://www.earthdaybags.org). Thanks for your participation!!

## LITTER LAWS BOOK 9<sup>TH</sup> GRADE

This informative little blue book gives our youngest drivers all the information that they need on the local and state litter laws. These books are ready and available to distribute. The books that aren't picked up at the meeting will be delivered in the next few weeks.

## NEXT MONTH

- NO APRIL AB/C Campus Coordinator's Meeting – Due to TAKS preparation
- May 8<sup>th</sup> AB/C Meeting 3:45 Chamber