

Upcycle and Fundraise

TerraCycle, the company that turns trash into new products, has announced a new partnership with Sally's, a new environmentally responsible brand from Malt-O-Meal Company. Sally's Cereal has just launched in Canada and will be available in Wal-Mart stores. Sally's is partnering with TerraCycle to launch the Sally's Cereal Bag Brigade®, a free program that pays schools and charities to collect and return used cereal bags. Sally's Cereal Bag Brigade locations will function as collection sites for post-consumer Sally's cereal bags and help prevent packaging waste from going into landfills. Any school can sign up for free to become a Brigade location, with proceeds to benefit the school. There is no cost to start a Brigade, and all shipping costs are pre-paid. For every Sally's bag collected and sent to TerraCycle, the designated school or charity will receive a \$.02 contribution from Sally's and TerraCycle.

Other TerraCycle Brigades: Nestle Chocolate Wrapper Brigade, Cookie & Cracker Wrapper Brigade, Kool-Aid Drink Pouch Brigade, Garnier Personal Care and Beauty Brigade, Glad Sandwich Bag & Container Brigade, Stonyfield Yogurt Cup Brigade. For more information about TerraCycle or to sign up for a Brigade, visit www.terracycle.ca. Twitter: @TerraCycleCA. Facebook Fan Page: TerraCycle Canada.

iPad App for Teachers and Students

Note Taker HD is an app that permits users to write directly on the screen of the iPad. Teachers can draw and project presentations; students can take notes using colour and ready-made shapes and arrows. Highlights include: folders to organize and store documents, pdfs and pages; four user-settable preset pens of multiple colours and widths; single-file full Backup/Restore and multi-document Save/Load; a zoomed editing wrist guard; swiping and full-screen added to page preview; a new user interface (UI) look.

Opportunities for Students with Katimavik

You see first year college or university students who seem unhappy and confused. It frustrates you because you believe they have as much potential to succeed as their more focused peers, but they just haven't figured out which program is for them. Some will switch majors or continue muddling through. 30% will eventually give up and drop out. You want to help them. And so do the folks at Katimavik.

Katimavik offers federally-funded, six-month, non-formal learning programs designed to provide students a chance to live away from home, explore, discover and learn. Upon completing the program, most alumni return to university or college excited, focussed, motivated to learn, and confident in their program choice and ability to succeed.

You can help them by recommending Katimavik. It's not too late for a January 2012 departure and they'll be ready to return to school as early as next September. If you want to help students in your class who seem lost and confused, encourage them to take a look at Katimavik. www.katimavik.org

Freerice Now in French, Italian and Spanish

Do you know the meaning of the French words: "argent-vif," "banban" and "argousin"? And even if you guessed that "pastasciutta" and "stracotta" have something to do with Italian cooking, would you know exactly what they

mean? Did you know that by improving your French and Italian vocabulary and general knowledge skills you can feed a hungry child?

French and Italian speakers and language students worldwide can now test their vocabulary and knowledge in art, chemistry and geography in a fun and challenging way, and help to feed hungry children around the world, thanks to Freerice Français (www.freerice.com/fr), and Freerice Italiano (www.freerice.com/it).

How does Freerice work? Players face increasingly difficult vocabulary questions and for every correct answer, they earn ten grains of rice donated to the United Nations World Food Programme and paid for by advertisers of the site.

Originally launched in English in 2007, Freerice.com became an instant viral phenomenon. In its first month, the game had raised enough rice to feed over 50,000 people for a day. Its designer, John Breen, says the programme started out as a simple word game to help his teenage sons prepare for their college entrance exams. Today, Freerice attracts 40,000 players daily (1.3 million per month) who take the fight against hunger online. They have raised almost 100 billion grains of rice, enough to feed 4.8 million people for a day in countries like Haiti, Uganda, Pakistan and Cambodia.

The French and Italian versions follow the successful launch, last June, of the Spanish version, while other language versions including Chinese and Korean are underway. www.freerice.com

Elephants, Never Forget



IFAW (International Fund for Animal Welfare) has kicked off its annual Animal Action Education program. The theme of this year's campaign is *Elephants, Never Forget*, and it focuses on the crisis that elephants face twenty years after the international ivory trade ban was put in place. The Animal Action program provides free education packs, films, advocacy activities and special events that celebrate elephants, introduce young people to the threats they face and empower them to take action. Educational materials, including lesson plans, videos and supplements are available for use and can be found on IFAW's website. www.ifaw.org

Canada Year Book 2011

The 2011 edition of Canada Year Book (CYB)—the must-have resource for teachers and students—is now available to educators at 30% off. Canada Year Book has been an authoritative reference on life in Canada since 1867. CYB is completely up-to-date with facts and analyses on major Canadian issues and trends from coast to coast. Its charts, tables and articles make it a key source for the newest facts on Canada. With CYB, students can find the information they need in one easy-to-read, reliable resource. Teachers benefit as well. Canada Year Book provides detailed information about Canada, its people and its land, and can be used to plan course material and to stay up-to-date with current trends and major issues in key areas such as health, environment, transportation and the economy. To get your 30% discount, order CYB by calling 1-800-267-6677 or by emailing infostats@statcan.gc.ca.

45th Annual PITCH-IN Week

PITCH-IN Canada is celebrating its 45th Annual PITCH-IN Week Campaign April 23 to 30, 2012. Celebrate a part of Canadian history and help to clean up your community. In 2011 an approximate 4.5 million pounds of waste and recycling was removed from communities and the natural environment. To be a part of this anniversary campaign, register your school after January 15, 2012 online at www.pitch-in.ca.

Tools for Youth Internet Safety

Kiwi Commons has recently launched new software—Kiwi Filter—that enables parents to approve websites in individually customized safe lists through unique whitelisting software. Website approval within the safe lists is based on a voting system that allows parents, teachers and community members to vote on websites that they deem appropriate and safe for kids. The organization is looking for users to test Kiwi Filter and provide feedback to the development team during a free 3-month trial.

Kiwi Commons is campaigning against bullying with a new initiative called I Get Bullied Too. The point of the initiative is to help kids realize that they are not alone by encouraging them to share their stories through social media websites such as Facebook, Twitter and Tumblr. www.kiwicommons.com

New from Castle Compost

Lorraine Roulston's Pee Wee at Castle Compost series has grown to include a 5th Pee Wee book. *Pee Wee's Magical Compost Tea* takes students on a tour to learn the benefits of making and using compost tea. All five books contain resources and ideas for teachers to teach and demonstrate composting. As well, Lorraine has created a 24 page colouring and activity book to illustrate the joys of composting. www.castlecompost.com

Commit to Kids

The Canadian Centre for Child Protection has created the *Commit to Kids* child sexual abuse prevention program to help schools and other child-serving organizations create safer environments for the children in their care. The program has been reviewed by many leading experts, including former justice Sydney Robins, who released a report in April 2000 called *Protecting Our Students: A review to identify and prevent sexual misconduct*

in Ontario schools.” The non-profit children’s charity distributes free copies of the program across Canada, helping organizations to: evaluate risks that exist; teach employees/volunteers the difference between appropriate and inappropriate behaviour; establish clear boundaries between employees/volunteers and children; ensure that allegations of sexual abuse are handled in a sensitive, timely and effective manner; understand their legal obligations to report child sexual abuse; provide employees/volunteers with specific strategies on how to prevent abuse; prevent child sexual abuse through increased awareness and education; and, ensure the highest standard of practice when working with children. www.commit2kids.ca

Much More Munsch

Visitors are invited into the delightful world of renowned Canadian children’s author Robert Munsch at the Canadian Children’s Museum in Gatineau, Quebec (part of the Canadian Museum of Civilization). *Much More Munsch* is an engaging interactive exhibition presented until April 9.

Each of the exhibition’s six sections represents an aspect of the author’s home and features interactive presentations that enable visitors to explore how Munsch creates, writes and communicates. They will be able to enter into the writer’s imagination by way of his front door, the outside of his house, the garden of poems, Mortimer’s bedroom, the living room and the kitchen—one after the other.

To complement visitors’ experience of the exhibition themes, the Children’s Museum will offer special programs throughout the fall and winter. These include a parade of visitors dressed as Munsch characters, a marionette show, and different special activities during the holiday season. Presented in English and French, *Much More Munsch* is designed to appeal especially to children age 5 to 8. www.civilization.ca/childrensmuseum

2012 Toyota Earth Day Scholarship

Earth Day Canada, with financial support from the Toyota Canada Foundation, has launched the 2012 Toyota Earth Day Scholarship Program to recognize and cultivate tomorrow’s environmental leaders. This year, the Toyota Earth Day Scholarship Program will reward twenty graduating high school and Cégep students across Canada with \$5 000 scholarships for their efforts and leadership in responding to environmental issues through school and community service. The deadline to apply is January 31, 2012. For more information visit www.earthday.ca/scholarship.

YouTube Space Lab

YouTube and Lenovo have launched a unique international program called YouTube Space Lab (youtube.com/spacelab). It combines an exciting platform for informative, space-related videos with a competition for 14 to 18 year olds from around the world to send a science experiment to space. The winning experiments will be carried out on the International Space Station and live streamed on YouTube. Winning teams will also win some amazing prizes. It is hoped that through the wonder of space and the power of YouTube, kids around the world will be inspired and educated about science. Globally recognized partners who share the vision, such as

Lenovo and Space Adventures in cooperation with NASA, and the Japanese and European space agencies, are helping make YouTube Space Lab a reality. A global panel of distinguished experts and scientists, including Professor Stephen Hawking and from Canada, Cirque de Soleil founder Guy la Liberte, will help choose the winning experiments. The channel also houses informative and interesting space and science related videos which align with school curriculums to ensure students are learning real science. Find out more about the competition on the YouTube Space Lab channel (youtube.com/spacelab) or in the FAQs.

Internet Safety Resource

Media Awareness Network (MNet) has launched *Privacy Pirates*, a new interactive game to teach children about online privacy and how to distinguish between public and private information when playing on the Internet. In the game, children attempt to assemble a map leading to pirate treasure—introducing the concept that their information has value. Along the way, players encounter a variety of situations in which they are asked to give up information. Making the correct choice, based on the type of information they’re being asked to give, and the context in which they are being asked, is rewarded with an additional piece of the treasure map. *Privacy Pirates* was developed with financial support from Google. It is part of MNet’s suite of digital literacy games, which are freely available on its website.

www.media-awareness.ca/english/games/index.cfm.

The Gift of Sight

Seva Canada Society’s mission is to restore sight and prevent blindness in the developing world. The organization provides funding and expertise to local partners in Nepal, Tibet, India, Tanzania, Madagascar, Malawi, Guatemala, Cambodia and Egypt to deliver eye care programs for the most vulnerable populations—women and children, the very poor and people living in rural areas. If you are thinking about a pre-Christmas fund raising project for your class, visit seva.ca for tangible ways that your students can help children in other parts of the world. Look for “Caring Kids” under “What You Can Do” on the website’s menu bar.

www.seva.ca

Raise Your Voices!

“Raise Your Voices!” is a cross-Canada public art contest for students in Grades 5 through 8 (Elementary 5 through Secondary 2 in Quebec). The challenge is to create a banner design that represents an issue or topic of importance to Canadian youth. Winning banners are professionally produced by the National Capital Commission (NCC) and flown each summer in Major’s Hill Park, Ottawa. The “Raise Your Voices!” National Student Banner Contest is an extension of the classroom resource *The Gathering Place: An Exploration of Canada’s Capital*. Contest deadline: February 17, 2012.

www.canadacapital.gc.ca/teacher-resources



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