

## Morning PA Announcements

To help build momentum for your Switch Off! Initiative and your Earth Day Celebrations we have compiled a list of 10 possible announcements to be read with the school PA morning announcements. Have your students, yourself or your principal read these Switch Off! announcements or create some as a class to use in the weeks surrounding Earth Day. It is a quick and easy way to help get others on board at your school.

### Instructions:

On the Switch Off! Calendar plan [LINK](#) we have marked Tuesdays and Thursdays as possible days for announcements (they seem to fit in well with holidays and reminders for April) but obviously whatever is best for your school is what will make the most sense.

Arrange to have your announcements read with morning announcements in the weeks surrounding Earth Day. They can be read by the regular school announcements reader or you can make it a reward for students. Make sure they have time to rehearse!

Extra, Extra! To select a student to read the announcements, have them audition in front of the class. Push for enthusiasm and things could get pretty hilarious.

Extra, Extra! Have a class discussion on strategies for creating effective advertisements and then have students try to create their own announcements. Have the students vote on the announcements they think should be used and have them explain why.

## Switch Off! Announcements

### Week 1

#### **Tuesday**

Hey (insert school name), the students in (insert teacher's name) class have added another project to our efforts at winning the Great EcoKids Challenge. We could win a computer, a digital camera or a CD/Cassette player for the school. Our new project is called Switch Off! A Pollution Solution. This project will help stop engine idling and pollution at our school zone. What's Idling? Well, idling is when a vehicle's engine is turned on but the vehicle is not moving anywhere. Idling wastes fuel and creates more pollution than when the vehicle is moving. (Insert teacher's name) class will spend the next few weeks investigating how much idling goes on at our school and educating our school visitors on the harm it can cause. We will keep you posted on what we discover.

#### **Thursday**

Person 1 : Hey (insert student's name), (insert teacher's name) class is doing a lot of work on that Switch Off! Project, but I don't get it. What does idling have to do with the environment?

Person 2 : Well, I was not sure either so I asked a few people and it turns out that idling releases gases in to the air that affect climate change, air pollution and our health.

Person 1 : So, by asking people in cars, vans, trucks and buses to Switch Off!, (insert teacher's name) class is helping to create a cleaner, less-polluted environment.

Person 2 : That's right! And, the rest of us can help too, by spreading the message to any drivers that we know and taking part in the Switch off! Poster Contest. If your class wants to enter the poster contest all you have to do pick up the Poster Entry Guidelines Sheet from (Insert Room Number and teachers name).

## **Week 2**

### **Tuesday**

What is the Switch Off! Team up to this week? Well, we (insert teacher's name) class will be handing out mini-flyers to driver's that we see idling outside our school. If anyone asks you what we are up to, tell him or her about Switch Off! A Pollution Solution and send them over to pick up a flyer.

Rememeber Switch off! posters so remember, all poster contest entries must be handed in to (insert designated classroom) by (insert date - one week before Earth Day) at lunchtime.

### **Thursday**

NOTE: To prepare this announcement you will need the average idling time for your school zone, as found on the Data Detective Round One Calculation Sheet. Take this figure and plug it into the CO2 Calculator. This will provide you with the amount of carbon dioxide produced, and fuel and money wasted each day, if everyone in your city idled for that amount of time.

Reporting from the Switch Off! Team of (insert teacher's name) class. Last week we took a survey of all the vehicles outside our school to see who was idling and who wasn't. It turns out that (blank) vehicles were idling for a total of (blank) minutes. When a car idles it wastes fuel. "By avoiding idling for (blank) minutes a day, motorists of (city, province) could, each day, together avoid wasting (blank) litres of fuel worth (blank) dollars." We hope that with the flyers we handed out this week and the poster contest on Earth Day we can cut these numbers down to zero. Thanks for your help, everyone!

## **Week 3**

### **Tuesday**

Next Tuesday is Earth Day. Did you know that 180 countries around the world celebrate Earth Day? Here at (insert school) we have been busy learning about the effects of idling and organizing special Earth Day events. Don't forget, the deadline for handing in your Switch off! Posters is tomorrow. They will be accepted at (insert designated classroom) before or at lunchtime.

### **Thursday**

Next Tuesday is Earth Day 2003. For this special day our school has planned some excellent events that you should definitely take part in:

1. The Switch Off! Poster Display and Contest -- The entries are in. All the fabulous posters will be displayed in (insert location where they are displayed). Be sure to check them out! Judges will also be busy trying to pick the winners, a very tough job!
2. Add in any other events you have planned.

## **Week 4**

### **Earth Day**

Happy Earth Day everyone!

Here are a few things to think about. If you behave like most people then each year, you will use up one large tree, and every day you make 2.2 kilograms of garbage.

It doesn't have to be that way. Just think before you do something and you can quickly change your habits

Think about using both sides of a piece of paper before you recycle it.

Stop waste from the start: Think about making a litterless lunch. Don't ask for those single serving packaged treats.

Next time you see someone you know idling their engine let them know that 10 seconds of idling uses more gas and money than restarting your engine!

Get out and do your part. One more thing you can do is take part in our Earth Day events. (Highlight other Earth Day events) Make sure that you check out all of the awesome Switch Off! posters on display (insert outside/in the front lobby) and share what you learn with your family and others.

### **Thursday**

Earth Day was a hit. Thanks Everyone! Remember Earth Day is celebrated on April 22<sup>nd</sup> every year but the actions you learned about can be used everyday! All the posters were winners but we will now announce the 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> prize winners selected by our judges for the Switch off! Poster Contest. (List off the 1<sup>st</sup> 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> place winners) All of the fabulous posters that student from (school's name) created will be on display for the rest of the week, so make sure that who ever picks you up from school today gets a chance to take a look.

## **Week 5**

### **Tuesday**

We will be entering our school in the Great EcoKids Challenge. Remember we could win a computer, a digital camera or a CD/Cassette player for the school. Let's recap what we have done over the last year to show our love for this planet. First, (list any events, programs, etc that your school has taken on). Congratulations everyone! You should all feel quite proud of what you have done for the environment this year. Keep up the good work!

### **Thursday**

Wow, our hard work has paid off. The Switch Off! Project was a success. The Surveys the Switch Off! team did in the last three days show that the idling outside our school has (decreased from ---- to ---/stopped completely). This is proof of what students can do to make a difference for our planet and our future. (insert teacher's name) class would like to thank everyone who helped to spread the word. It feels great to have made a difference!