



CASE STUDY

John Wollaston Anglican Community School

The school

John Wollaston Anglican Community School (JWACS) is a co-educational Pre-Kindergarten to Year 12 day school, providing continuity and a seamless transition through all stages of learning.

As a school of the Anglican Schools Commission, this is done within a framework of strong spiritual values and a safe, caring environment.



The litter problem

The school litter problem consisted mainly of general lunch time waste.

Coordinating the program

A committee consisting of the Deputy Principal as co-ordinator, Deputy Head of Primary Business Manager, volunteer teachers, Head Groundsman, three secondary student prefects and one primary student Environment Captain, brainstormed ideas and supported the co-ordinator in implementing the program.

Pre-program research

The Keep Australia Beautiful online litter survey was completed across the whole school. It indicated the main reasons for students littering were "it was an accident" or "couldn't find a bin." There was some awareness that litter could affect the environment but mostly, for those who did not litter it was because they "know it is wrong."

One 'school house' cleaned the entire school on School Clean Up Day and did a litter audit during which 500 pieces of litter were collected.

Program implementation

Time

JWACS conducted the Clean Schools program right across their K to 12 campus in Term 1 of 2011. During the 11 week term, weeks one to four were spent preparing and planning, weeks five to ten implementing the program and week 11 evaluating its success through completing the survey and litter audits once again.

Displays

An A3 size poster was placed in the window of every classroom. These posters were initially taken from the Clean Schools thumb drive using a mixture of photographs and littering information and 'Trash My Ad' print ads. As the school poster competition progressed, the students' work replaced these posters.

The winning poster from the competition is now placed in every classroom in the school with the slogan, "It's simple."



Activities

The program was launched with a whole school clean-up on Clean Up Australia Day. This gave a great sense of community participation to the commencement of the program.

Throughout the term 'mini house' clean-ups took place every Friday. One group from each house was rostered to clean up the house area.

Material from the Clean Schools thumb drive and Learning About Litter curriculum guide was used to create a comprehensive lesson on the effects of litter on the

environment in which all students were involved, either in class (primary) or extended house group time (secondary).

Extended House Group time each week was allocated for secondary students to conduct discussions about the Clean Schools program and work on projects such as the slogan and poster competition. In the primary school these activities took place during class times.

Competitions

Slogan and poster competitions were run across the school with group winners and a grand winner. The winning slogan was actually taken from the winner of the poster competition, which is now displayed in every classroom to remind students that when it comes to litter, "It's simple!"

The primary school had jingle and poster competitions. However, as the school is all on one campus, their program was very similar to the secondary one, with the same posters etc. put up around the school and the same message given to students.

Daily messages

Throughout the six week program implementation period, messages were placed in the school Daily Bulletin. The six daily messages provided on the Clean Schools thumb drive were included in the Secondary Daily Bulletin on Monday and Tuesday. One was used per week and ran over the two days. House teachers went through these with their group and a copy was also posted on each house board in student reception at the beginning of each week.

The six fact sheets provided on the Clean Schools thumb drive were included in the Secondary Daily Bulletin on Thursday and Friday and ran for two days. Again, house teachers went through these with their group and a copy was posted in student reception on Thursday of each week.

Every Wednesday the Bulletin featured something different from slogans arising from the slogan competition, outcomes from the litter survey, litter facts on the Clean Schools thumb drive, 'Trash My Ad' examples and new ads created by the students. The Daily Bulletin was used to post notices and updates of the progress made during the campaign and messages were kept fresh and interesting.

The Primary School ran weekly rather than daily messages.

Enforcement

JWACS chose not to use the mock fines due to negatives being unsuccessful in the past. Instead they carried out spot litter checks and gave out gold merits for students who volunteered to pick up litter.

In areas that did not improve students were moved from 'coveted' areas for a period of time and sat outside the Deputy Principal's office during recess and lunch times.

Celebration

A whole of school assembly was held in the final week of term to share the results of the Clean Schools program. The winner of the poster competition was announced and final audit results shared. These were also published in the Daily Bulletin.

Community involvement

Parents were kept informed of progress of the program through the school newsletter. The campaign was also referred to in the school quarterly magazine.

Outcome

The final litter audit recorded an 80 per cent reduction in litter from more than 500 items in the pre-program audit to just over 100 in the final audit. However, the items in that 100 were very small scraps of litter rather than the big items that were collected in the initial clean-up.

The campaign was a great success and many staff members and parents commented on how much cleaner the grounds were.



Plans for the future

Litter is much improved since the project ended but staff have remained vigilant. In the Secondary School a duty roster has been put in place so that every Friday morning during House Group Time (Home Room), one House Group is rostered on to clean the House Area. This way the entire school is cleaned by the students once a week – aside from the grounds staff cleaning schedule – which means that the students feel they are taking responsibility for their areas and their litter.

JWACS is continuing to work hard to make litter a non-issue. They are aware that this will be a long term process and more work will need to take place so that a Clean School becomes the new culture of their school.