SPREADING THE WORD

Under the Sustainable Marblehead umbrella, the Education Working Group partners with schools and community organizations assisting faculty, administrators, parents, students and leaders to raise awareness, develop environmental education programs and embed sustainability practices in their communities.

APRIL NEWS, EVENTS + ACTIVITIES!

MARK THE DATE: APRIL 22 IS EARTH DAY! This year's theme is "Restore Our Earth" and focusing on "natural processes, emerging green technologies and innovative thinking that can restore the world's ecosystems." Check out earthday.org for classroom, at-

home and community learning resources.

How are you honoring and being of service to our beautiful community? If you are looking for ideas, Marblehead Conservancy is offering fun activities at Lead Mills April 17th and 24th including learning to build mason bee houses! These busy winged creatures are one of many pollinators important to plant production!

Looking for more ways to be a good steward of the earth?

- clean up our parks, beaches, and playgrounds
- swap out your kitchen and household products for green products
- plant a tree (see below!)
- use wildflowers + native plants to attract beneficial insects
- reduce, reuse, recycle

ARBOR DAY! Did you know Abor Day is about planting more trees in the community? The first Arbor Day was held on April 10, 1872 in Nebraska City, NE by secretary of the Nebraska Territory J. Sterling

Nebraska City, NE by secretary of the Nebraska Territory J. Sterling Morton. An avid tree enthusiast and advocate, Sterling organized a competition and offered prizes to individuals and counties that planted the most trees on a single day. An estimated **one million trees** were planted in Nebraska on the first American Arbor Day**.** Some 15 years later Arbor Day was named a legal state holiday in Nebraska and the last friday of April was later selected for its permanent annual observance.

What can you do to celebrate Arbor Day? Plant a tree! Volunteer! Sustainable Marblehead's Urban Forestry committee is helping Marblehead Tree Warden Jon Fobert coordinate volunteers for a town wide tree planting at the end of April -- exact date will be announced soon. Email Pal Bickford to find out more about getting involved. Additional volunteers are needed for the 2021 public town tree survey in May/June. Contact Jon Fobert at (781) 631-2721 to help count Marblehead's trees!

Visit Arbor Day Foundation to learn about the benefits of trees including adding value to your home, regulating the temperature of your neighborhood and providing food for wildlife.

MVMS APRIL PLASTICS CHALLENGE Students in MVMS Sustainability Club have launched a month-long challenge and are asking everyone to make 'one small change each day' to reduce or eliminate single-use plastic (SUP).

To kick off the April challenge, a new exhibition of student SUP art is on display outside the MVMS library. Sustainability Club members used plastic and other man made materials from their home recycling bins and things they found on local beaches including Preston and Phillips to create interesting and beautiful sea creatures. They collaborated with Marblehead High School students, their advisories, club mentor Ms. Reynolds and art teacher Ms. Hauptman to display their creations in the new exhibition...but it's not all about displaying art.

The purpose of their campaign is to raise awareness that most of the plastic pollution found in the ocean is SUP. Only a small percentage of the plastic placed in recycling bins actually gets recycled. Please join us in the challenge to #stopSUP by picking up trash, saying no to plastic water bottles and finding other ways to replace SUP with sustainable alternatives. Check out Storyofstuff.com to learn more simple steps and their pledge to avoid, reuse, or recycle plastic: https://action.storyofstuff.org/sign/plastic-free-challenge/. Their weekly tips and strategies can be put into action today. Small changes add up when we work together!

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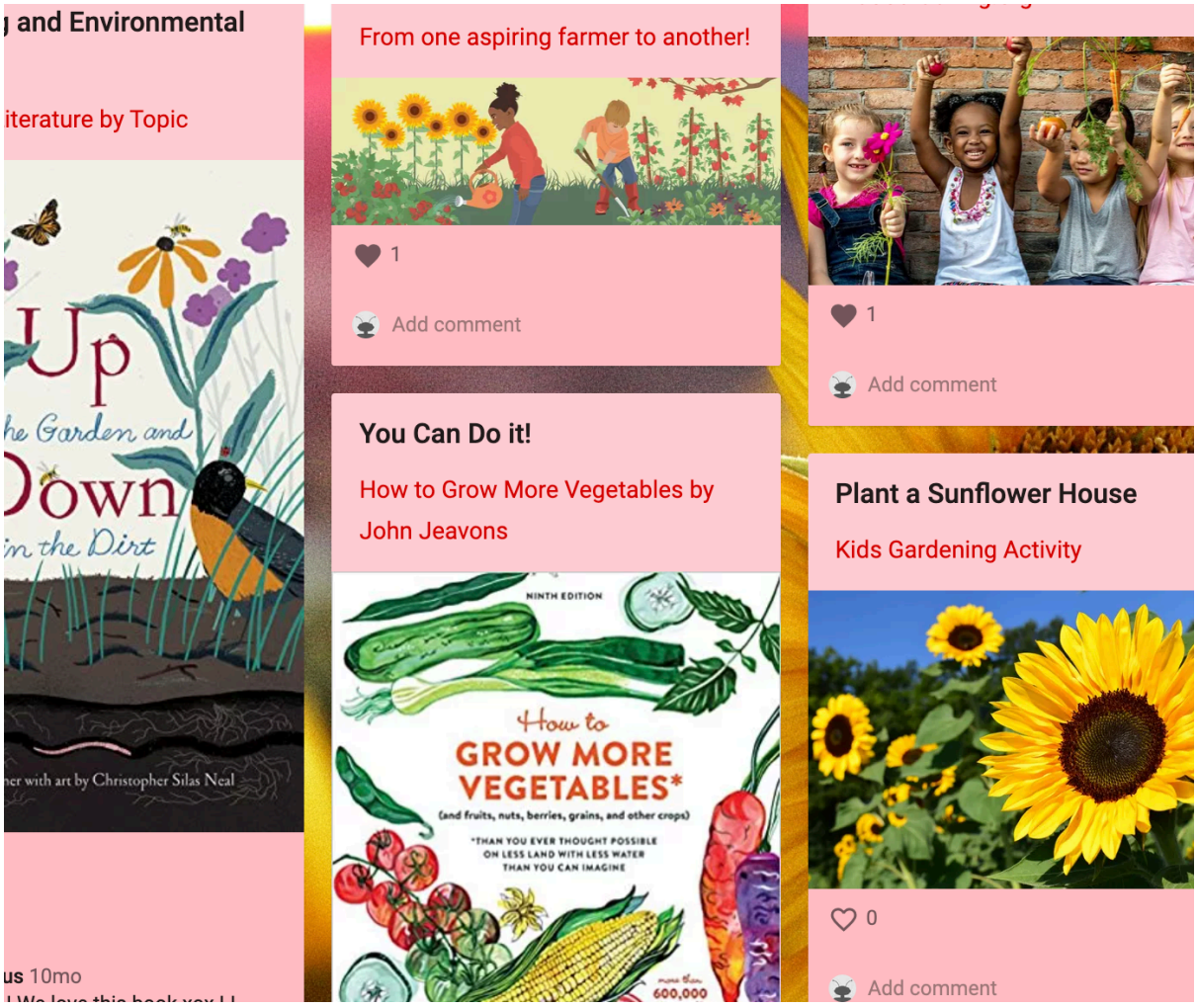
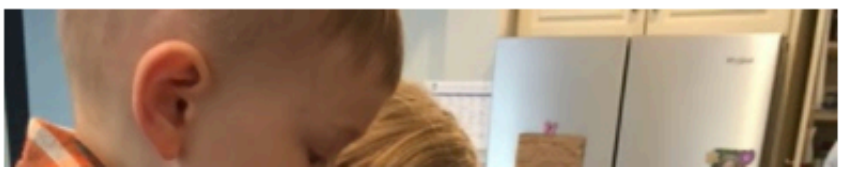
MHD OUTDOOR CHALLENGE It's called a "challenge" because it is! We have heard from many families that they didn't realize how few hours they spend outside daily until they began tracking their time We get that. Many Sustainable Marbleheaders have noticed the same thing! Lucky for us, we have the ability to make lifestyle changes. With new awareness, we can start fresh each day and try to achieve a goal of getting outside for at least two hours exploring, enjoying, watching spring unfold. Tell friends: it's never too late to join! The challenge will run through the end of May. Check out Sustainable Marblehead website for more information.



A TEACHER'S COLLECTION of GARDENING TIPS! The snow has

melted. The ground is thawing. Birds are chirping. And it's time to put on our gardener's hat! Tower School Science teacher Colleen Parenteau has put together a wonderfully creative *padlet* with links, images, videos and document files all around the subject of GARDENING! Click here to see all the fun ideas to get to your growing this spring!

YOUTH MEDIA COMPETITION! Calling Marblehead youth of all ages! Question: *What does a healthy ocean and harbor look like to you?* Collaborate with siblings and/or friends or work alone to create a unique piece of artwork answering the question in your own way Click to download the flyer for more information. Submission deadline May 21.



DIY TOILET BOMBS! Owner of MacRae's Sustainable Goods Jennifer Lewis, was inspired by working on a school project with her son (on the garbage patches in the ocean) to use less plastic in her home and to help other people to do the same. She believes we can have more of an impact together -- we couldn't agree more! Below is a recipe for a "clean" toilet without using of nasty chemicals packaged in plastic!

Ingredients: 1 Cup Baking Soda; ½ Lemon juiced; 39 drops of essential oils (we used 13 each of rosemary, tea tree and lemon)

How to Make:

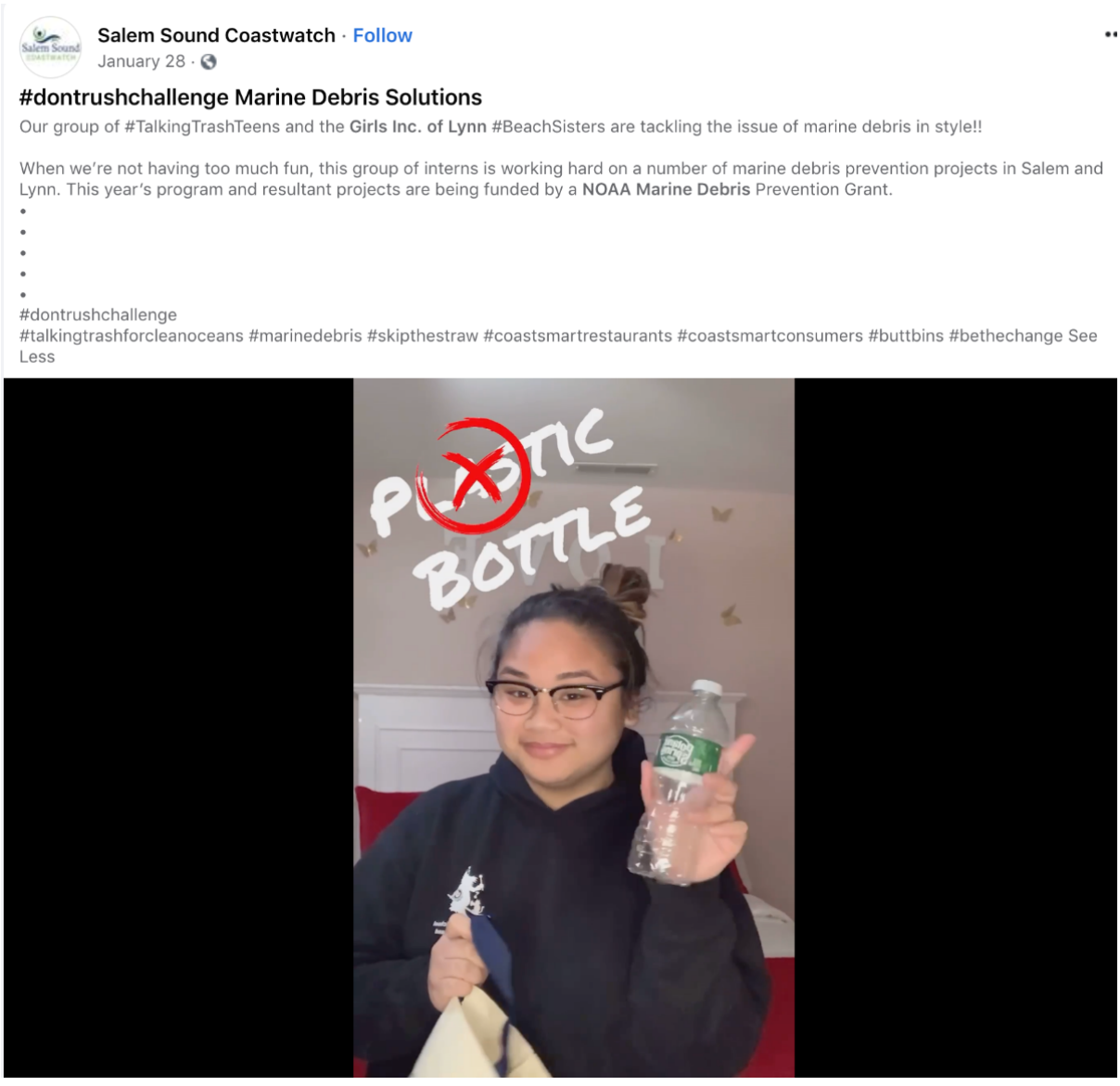
- Add the lemon juice to the baking soda and mix quickly.
- Add essential oils and mix until evenly combined.
- Press the mixture into silicone molds or like we did an empty

- Press the mixture into silicone molds or like we did an empty egg carton!
- Let dry until it feels hard to the touch and is pulling away from the mold.
- Store in an airtight container.

How to Use: Drop a piece (or crumbs/ powder - sometimes they break but can still clean!) into the toilet and let it dissolve. Scrub anything that needs scrubbing and flush. Voila! Click here for more DIY Cleaning Tips.

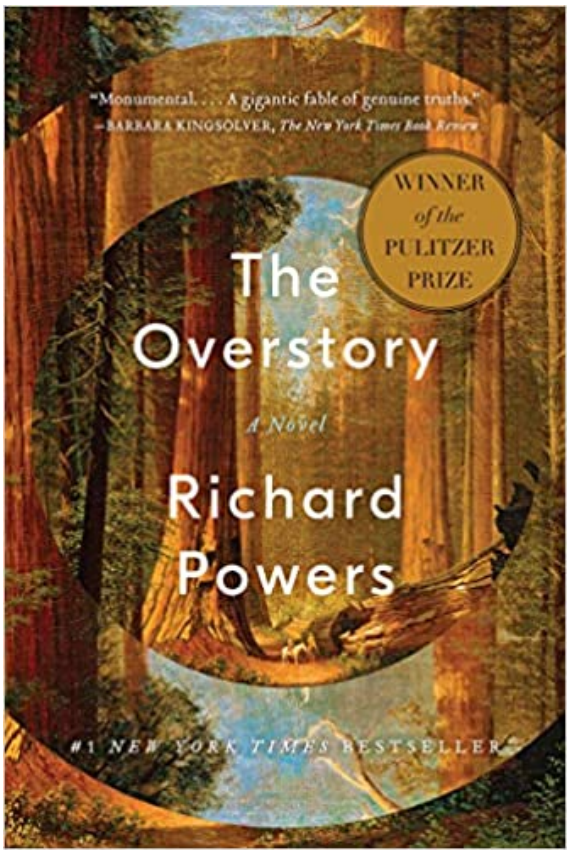
What are human's impact on the environment? 5th graders at Village School are wondering too. With the help of science teacher Steve Volpe, they are studying human impact on the environment through the perspective of five different groups of people who live and work in the Chesapeake Bay area. They are learning about the

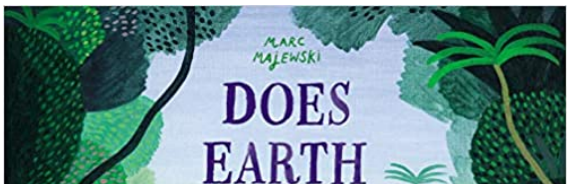
effects fishermen, land developers, dairy farmers, recreational boaters, and ordinary citizens have on the condition of the bay. Considering different perspectives, students recognize the positive contributions of each group as a member of the bay community, as well as the negative effects their actions can have on the condition of the bay and its organisms. They will end by identifying the steps that can be taken to reduce the negative impacts each group contributes and the trade offs that may arise from implementing those changes.

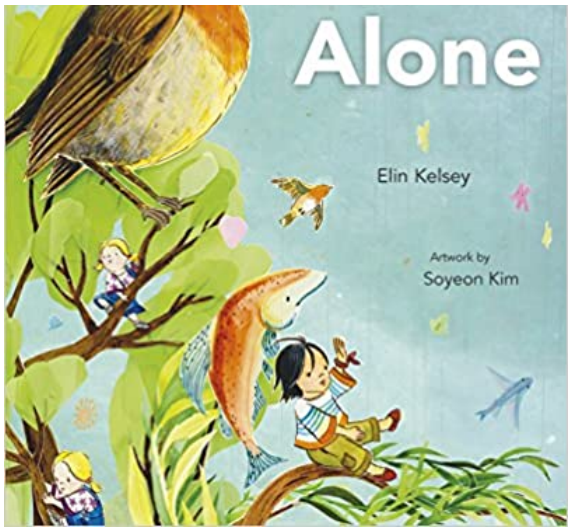


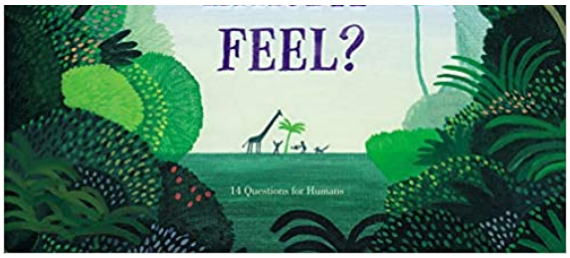
MARINE DEBRIS SOLUTIONS Curious about what some students outside of Marblehead are doing to educate and build awareness around marine debris problems in our area? Check out the #TalkingTrashTeens and Girls, Inc. of Lynn #BeachSisters! On Wednesday, April 28th at 7pm, they'll be sharing what they've learned -- Zoom with [Meeting ID: 892 6482 5049, password: 075817]; or checkout their video on Facebook.

BOOKS OF THE MONTH!









Join our Education Group
at our next meeting on
April 28th @ 7pm via Zoom

We want to hear from you! Find us on Facebook and Instagram.

Sustainable Marblehead
PO Box 1320, Marblehead MA 01945
SustainableMarblehead.org

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