

We are Ocean Guardians at Earhart Elementary!

The health of our oceans is vital to the health of all living things on Earth. As the temperature rises, sea levels rise along with it. This makes the ocean environment more acidic, which disrupts the delicate balance of life on earth. Even more alarming, we now know that human-made pollutants such as plastics are contaminating our oceans. Plastics unfortunately do not disappear, but rather break down into minuscule particles. Sea animals ingest these particles, thus putting all life on the planet in serious turmoil.

As Ocean Guardians, we here at Earhart aim to do everything we can to interrupt this cycle as a community. Our first goal is to create awareness of our consumption of single-use plastics at school. Those single use plastics are a noticeable cause of much of the plastic contaminating our oceans. We hope to become as waste-free as possible. That means avoiding our reliance on single-use plastics in our lunches and snacks. We will work together in the classrooms, at home, and in the community to be as proactive as possible to help protect our oceans from the dangers of plastics. As Ocean Guardians, saving the planet starts with all of us.

Here are some **guidelines** to help you plan. Go to <http://www.greenschools.net/article.php-list=type&type=12.html> for more ideas!

Guidelines for bringing in food and drinks

Drinks

- **Think big!** Use the large Gatorade Coolers (in the office), or gallon/liter sized bottles
- **Please, no juice pouches, juice boxes, or plastic water bottles**
- **Children should bring their own water bottles or reusable cups**
- **If necessary, use paper cups over plastic**

Snacks and Food

- **Buy in bulk!** Please, no individually wrapped/snack sized bags
- **Use paper plates, not plastic, when necessary**
- **Use the classroom set of glass plates that can be reused, if possible**

Say NO to these!

