

Going Green

Different ways to keep homes eco-friendly this year

RACHEL HIGH
FEATURE WRITER

With the world constantly changing as much as it is, many people do not stop to take the time to look at all the signs around them telling them to help protect the environment. "Going Green" is one way students can contribute to making their homes and the world more eco-friendly.

"Going Green" is a lifestyle that people can choose to adopt which includes altering their life in ways that will help the environment become more eco-friendly, safe, and more clean.

H-F's Environmental Earth Club (EEC) focuses on the problems with the environment and what students can do to help out.

"Students are the next group of citizens. They need to be apathetic and care about the world that they live in. I think the biggest reason why they are not involved is because they just do not know," EEC sponsor Leah Sauvage said.

One way students can become aware is simply by starting to take care of the environment and beginning to do simple things that will help the environment, such as recycling and becoming conscious of what the problems are.

"There is no, 'Well, it does not affect me.' Just because you do not see

what changes need to be made could just mean people are not looking hard enough or in the right places. We live here, it is all we have got, and everyone needs to live with each other and with the earth. It makes sense that the relationship should have a balance," Junior EEC member Jordan Stein said.

Teens are not concerned with the environment because they get caught up in work, friends, or other aspects of their lives, so "it is not likely they will go looking for what they might not have forever: clean air, moderate [ultraviolet] protection, sufficient water supply," Stein said.

Switching from incandescent light bulbs to fluorescent is one way to make the household more eco-friendly because they use 66 percent less energy and last 15 times longer. This small change can add up over time.

If a household places plants every few hundred square feet this can help to improve air quality.

Grocery shoppers should bring their own cloth carrying bags when they go to the store because approximately 100 billion plastic bags are thrown away each year, taking up significant space in landfills. Some stores even offer a discount when customers bring their own bags. These bags are not only sturdier but also conserve more.

By making conserving and recycling more fun for children they

would develop habits that they will carry with them for the rest of their lives. If this is done in many families, this will lead to a more concerned and conscious youth in the future.

"Students could recycle, reuse, and reduce. It would make a huge impact if everyone did these things. It would also help to think about how our actions will impact the environment, and to then alter them to be less of an environmental detriment. I try to use public transportation, or carpool whenever possible," Stein said.

There are many simple ways that teenagers can easily contribute to this process in hopes of helping out the environment. It is the little things that students can do that, if combined, add up to a bigger result.

"I recycle, reuse water bottles, try not to waste ten pieces of paper for an assignment that only needs two, promote awareness, and try to make helping the environment fun and a part of life for younger kids so it becomes natural to care. It is the little things that happen on a daily basis that make the most impact on the environment. Just begin with a conscious effort, and, with time, the actions will not be an effort anymore," Stein said.

For more information on "Going Green", keeping the environment more eco-friendly, and also EEC see Sauvage in A14.

Tips for Going Green in the Home

- 🌳 Start buying organic food because they are grown without chemicals or pesticides.
- 🌳 Use club soda instead of a product such as Windex for glass cleaning.
- 🌳 Instead of using regular paper plates use a recycled brand to help eliminate the destruction of trees.
- 🌳 To help conserve, use mugs instead of disposable cups.
- 🌳 Create a fun recycling center for younger kids which separates glass, plastic, metal, and newspaper.

Graphic by Rachel High

Source: marthastewart.com

kite runner:

A book that portrays the horror of coming of age in Afghanistan during a violent revolution

ANNE ROBERTSON
FEATURE WRITER

Beautiful is the only way to describe *The Kite Runner*, a novel by Khaled Hosseini.

The Kite Runner is thoughtfully written and tells a heartbreaking story of redemption and guilt.

"It was an absorbing story, a real page turner," Library Media Specialist Kathy Tisoncik said.

Amir is a young boy living a privileged life in Afghanistan with his father, his father's friend and servant Ali, and the servant's son Hassan, who is Amir's best friend and servant during the very beginning of the country's revolution. Amir's father is a well regarded man who spends his time giving back to his Arab community as much as he can. Amir spends the first 13 years of his life desperately trying to please his larger-than-life father, who pays more attention to Hassan than he does to Amir.

Amir harbors a resentment to Hassan that fills him with shame because Hassan is the most generous person he has ever known. He will do anything to earn the respect of his father who cannot seem to fathom that his son is more interested in writing than sports the other boys in his neighborhood and playing soccer. Amir's father is baffled at his son who lets Hassan fight his battles for him in the school yard. The story chronicles Amir's lifelong battle for the understanding of his father

and the power to be the son his father always hoped for.

Amir enters a kite flying contest every year along with Hassan and this year he is determined to win the contest and his father's affection. However, after the contest the choices he makes

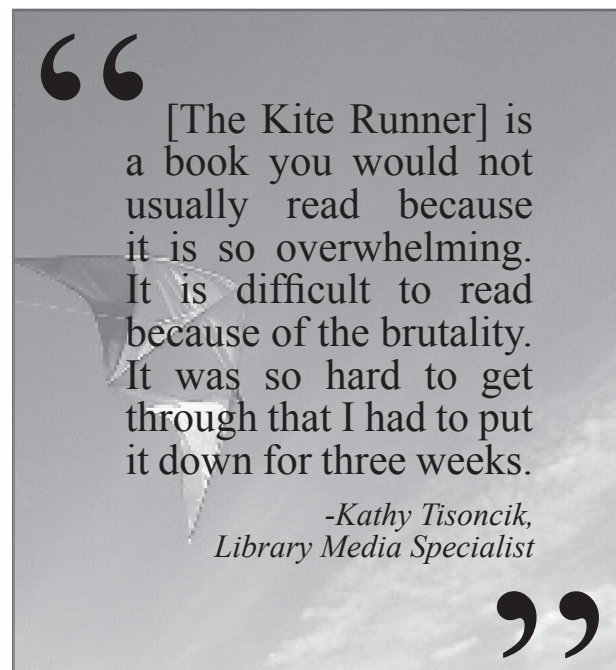
cannot move past the guilt and shame he is filled with that night.

"This is a book you would not usually read because it is so overwhelming. It is difficult to read because of the brutality. It was so hard to get through that I had to put it down for three weeks," Tisoncik said.

The Kite Runner tells an astonishing story of prejudice and shame. Amir battles with the personal demons he unleashed as a child. He becomes an insomniac and spends his life running away from the shame of his past. Amir lives in fear that his father will learn that he is a coward for not defending Hassan and will ignore him even more.

The author chronicles Amir's life as he tries desperately to flee the past that he cannot admit to. The revolution takes hold quickly, turning life in Afghanistan into

chaos. Amir and his father start their life over in America where Amir finds it easy to start over and learn English, but his father is still yearning for his old life in Afghanistan. As the revolution tears apart Afghanistan, Amir struggles to start over and earn the love of his



-Kathy Tisoncik,
Library Media Specialist

change his life forever. Amir sees Hassan get into trouble while trying to defend Amir's honor. Amir does not help Hassan despite the fact that Hassan had fought for him thousands of time before. He hides from Hassan and tells no one what he saw. Amir

father.

The Kite Runner is a haunting novel that details Amir's journey to understand the prejudice and fear that he witnessed as a child growing up in Afghanistan. Amir is eventually forced to return to Afghanistan years later after he is married and his father is long dead. He returns to right his wrongs from the past, and eventually risks his life to dissolve the shame he acquired years ago. He returns to rescue a young boy that he never met. The book is written in a fierce style that tells the cruel facts of Amir's childhood with no romanticism.

"It gave me a deep understanding and brought the story to life for me in a compassionate way. It was great at putting events into context," Tisoncik said.

The Kite Runner takes students into a world they could never have imagined. It takes a brutal period in the Afghanistan revolution and makes it easier for students to understand by creating a realistic story and well developed characters without softening the violence of that time period. The H-F library has many copies of *Kite Runner* that students can check them out with their Student ID.

Tales From the Crib Answers
Baby A Keith Brabeck
Baby B Alyzza Dill
Baby C Anupama Marati
Baby D Rachel Longawa