

Proviso East High School

807 S. First Ave.
Maywood, IL 60153



Mrs. Lucas-Duckins, Science Teacher

Telephone: (708) 449-9540
Email: mlucas-duckins@pths209.org
Fax: (708) 344-5942

November 2008

To Whom It May Concern:

This letter is to introduce a very special group of students who have qualified for and have been selected to participate in the *Changing Our Environment... "Yes We Can!"* Ecology Project.

Proviso is spotlighting their achievements to improve academic performance of students in the Maywood community. Proviso East High School boasts alumnae that include business executives, teachers, professional athletes, and university graduates with advanced degrees.

Through community support, Proviso students will earn the opportunity to participate to in the *"Changing Our Environment... "Yes We Can!"* Ecology Project. Sponsors may donate food from any of our local restaurants such as Crispy's Philly Steak, Northface coats and/or hats, gloves & other accessories. Northface coats are guaranteed to keep our students warm while they are out in the cold weather *"Changing Our Environment."* Sponsors are often local businesses, clubs, churches, family or individuals. Return your sponsor agreement form and tax-deductible contribution before November 30 and as a sponsor, you will receive free, an acknowledgement in the District 209 Proviso Rising Newsletter. Visit our District website at pths209.org to view our thank you to you!

We encourage you to support Proviso East Science Students. From experience, we can assure that your investment will go a long way in helping these young adults blossom and grow into the type of future citizen that will make us all proud. Return your sponsor agreement form and tax-deductible contribution before November 30.

Please use the attached SPONSOR'S AGREEMENT FORM to register your participation.

Thank you for your investment in Proviso East Students!

Sincerely,

Mrs. Lucas-Duckins, Science Teacher

Sponsors Agreement

I/we _____ of
(authorized individual's name)

_____ of _____
(name of firm or organization) (type of contribution **food, coat, accessories other**)

do hereby agree to sponsor PROVISO EAST H.S. Science Department for the
(name of school)

2008-2009 ECOLOGY PROJECT. My check for \$ _____ (sponsor fee: \$ _____) and ad copy (logo, business card, or statement) are enclosed.

Authorized Signature

Date

All participants have pledged to remain drug & alcohol free!!!

PLEASE MAKE ALL CHECKS PAYABLE TO: Proviso East High School 2008 Class Council
AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY/AFFIRMATIVE ACTION EMPLOYER

CHANGING OUR ENVIRONMENT

Yes We Can!

Introduction: How do making observations in the Forest preserve, on a bright sunny day, spark the intellect of an every day student beyond the classroom? Where does Ecology fit into the learning environment? Why not use the neighborhood ecological biosphere as the ultimate platform and learning ground. Biology students of Proviso East High School District 209 answer all these questions and more by developing this biology project idea one day in class during our Ecology unit. They observed and brainstormed several characteristics that were contributing factors in helping maintain a new and improved “changed environment.” They concluded that they were willing and ready to search for ways to make ideas a reality by joining the Forest Preserve District of Cook County as District volunteers. The participants realize that many positive changes could result from our efforts to help preserve and protect the plants and animals by CHANGING OUR ENVIRONMENT, Yes We Can!

Background Information: The core component of the District’s mission is ultimately a simple one: to preserve and protect the flora and fauna of Cook County. That mission is best achieved, however, when we are aided by you - our visitors - in our fight to keep our preserves safe, clean and healthy. We invite you to join us in that effort as a District volunteer and you can find out how by visiting their website <http://www.fpdcc.com/>. Consider joining as an individual or even engaging your block club, church group, school or any other type of community organization, but no matter how you would like to work with the forest preserve, remember, your help is needed.

The Forest Preserve District of Cook County’s ongoing “LIVE HEALTHY, DISCOVER NATURE” campaign encourages Cook County residents to visit our holdings and utilize them to engage in healthier lifestyles while discovering our treasured natural habitats. By highlighting activities that encourage exercise, the District has joined to fight to make each of our lives a little better through fitness.

Purpose: To engage our Proviso High School District 209 with the Forest Preserve District of Cook County as District volunteers “preserve and protect the flora and fauna of Cook County” by spending a class periods cleaning up the Forest Preserve. The District’s ongoing “LIVE in efforts to help the Ecosystem and save the natural habitat of the plants and animals that remain there. To identify the biotic & abiotic factors that affect our ecosystem.

Hypothesis: If we participate in activities of preservation such as cleaning up the forest preserve we could create positive change in our community and environment. If we clean up the forest preserve, it will save a lot of plants and animals setting an example to inspire other people to take a step to help the ecosystem.

Materials:

Empty Garbage Cans, bags, gloves, megaphone, proviso east high school biology students, a positive attitude, and a permission slip.

Data: (Content Standards Covered: 11.A.4a-e; 11.B.4.b 12.B.4a 12.B.4b 13.A.4B)

Generate charts and insert pictures that organize the data such as biotic, abiotic factors, and items collected. Student Name _____ Date _____ Period _____

ABIOTIC FACTORS	BIOTIC FACTORS
1.	
2.	
3.	
4.	

Table 1: List both the biotic and abiotic factors that you observed.

Procedures:

1. Gather materials to adopt a tree... Record the following information

Tree ID# _____ Date _____

Common Name _____

Scientific Name _____

Height of tree = _____ Circumference of trunk _____

Do you see any animals (birds, insects, etc.) on or near your tree? List the names of the animals you see. What are they doing?

Does your tree look healthy? If not, what signs do you see that indicate it may be in trouble?

Other comments:

2. Prepare for walk...participants are utilizing this activity to engage in healthier lifestyles while discovering the forest preserve's treasured natural habitats. Walking being the mode of transportation for this activity encourages exercise, making each of our lives a little better through fitness which is a common goal of the Forest Preserve District of Cook County as well.

3. Walk to the forest preserve/review abiotic vs. biotic factors

4. Divide into groups/Clean up

5. Walk back to school and prepare to go home

6. Lunch Discussion of the tree you adopted in the Forest Preserve

7. Survey/Data analysis

Evaluation:

Students will earn points for the collected items that they pick up at the Forest Preserve.

- 100-90= A
- 89-80= B
- 79-70= C
- 69-60= D

PLASTICS	PAPER	CIGARETTE BUTTS	ALUMINUM CANS	GLASS BOTTLES
Group 1	Group 2	Group 3	Group 4	Group 5
1.				
2.				
3.				
4.				
5.				
6.				
7.				
8.				
9.				
10.				

Group Leaders: Collect the data and record the # of items that each group collected. Create a chart to organize it!

Conduct is a major part of the project grade. All students are expected to conduct themselves in a mature and orderly manner. No profanity will be tolerated. All students that participate are to comply with all conduct rules outlined in the school handbook.

Standards Covered

- NETS-S-2007.1 Creativity and Innovation: Students demonstrate creative thinking, construct knowledge, and develop innovative products and processes using technology. Students:
- NETS-S-2007.1.a apply existing knowledge to generate new ideas, products, or processes.
- NETS-S-2007.1.b create original works as a means of personal or group expression.
- NETS-S-2007.1.c use models and simulations to explore complex systems and issues.