# Celebrating Zero Waste Week at School

Please find below some suggested activities and resources to help educate, energize, and engage your students as they rally around Zero Waste Week (ZWW) at school, at home and out in their communities.

*These activities listed below are not directed to specific K-12 grades. Please adjust accordingly.*

ZWW Bulletin Board: Create a centrally located ZWW bulletin board for the week with room for students to post their ZWW pledges and other ZWW related information/ updates.

Wake up to ZWW Morning Announcements: Use the ZWW pre-recorded public service announcements, (or create your own at school) and play/read them every morning over the intercom.

Get the ZWW Word OUT: Include student-written notes/ letters/articles/editorials about ZWW in student newspapers/ emails to parents. Flood the local newspaper with students' "Letters to the Editor"! Write to your elected officials! Students present to city council, school board, Rotary Club, etc. about why ZWW is important to them and to the ocean.

Celebrate with ZWW Art: Create big and small art using waste materials (from school and/or home), and celebrate with a school-wide art exhibit.

Home Waste Audits: Students assess and then brainstorm ways to reduce waste at home.

Sorting Contest: Students are given a variety of items to try to get in the right buckets within a limited amount of time (i.e., landfill vs. recycling vs. compostable vs. compost).

Litterless Lunches Contest: Create a competition (between classes/grades) to see who can produce the least amount of waste during ZWW. Create colorful waste audit graphs and hang them up in your cafeteria to compare!

Litterati Scavenger Hunt: (litterati.org) Turn this activity into a scavenger hunt! Put together a list of waste items that can be commonly found on your campus and reward the students who collect the most items.

*Artwork by Alex B. for Bow Seat Ocean Awareness Programs*

**"Turn Off, Turn Down, Unplug"**: Create signage to either turn down, turn off or unplug the various electronics, thermostats, lights, etc. Organize a "no idling" campaign for parents who drive and pick up students at school.

*Artwork by Emmanuel R. for Bow Seat Ocean Awareness Programs*

Create/Decorate Reusable Bags: Provide materials for your students to decorate reusable bags or better yet, make reusable bags out of old T-shirts! Bonus points for students who decorate their bags with "Go Green. Think Blue!" ideas.

Make Recycled Crayons: Instead of tossing old and broken crayons in the trash, students can create their own custom crayons (with adult supervision). (zerowastenerd.com/diy-recycled-crayons)

Tote-Your-Own-Trash Day: Bring each student's litter story one step closer by asking students to carry their own trash bag around with them for a day (or for the whole week). Students keep their portable trash bags throughout the school day(s). Make time for reflection and related action items.

**A "Do Without" Day**: Pick a day(s) to NOT use an item in class such as no "new" paper, no electric-powered technology, no electric lights (only day light).

Donut-eating Contest: See what it's like to be a bird or other sea animal trying to get food out of a plastic bag with no hands! Students try to eat donut holes out of a plastic baggie with their hands behind their backs

Swedish Fishing Contest: See what it's like to be an albatross hunting for food while trying to sort through an ocean of plastic trash (bottle caps, baggies, etc.). Put trash into a large bucket/bin with sweet treats (i.e., Swedish fish) hidden among the trash. Have students use trash picker-uppers to mimic a bird's beak grabbing for food.