**October Family Service Project**

**Discussion:**

* **What kind of everyday items are made from plastic?**
* Name some of the things you used today that are made from plastic.
* Are these things reusable or are they designed to be used only once?
* Single-use plastic creates a trash problem. We need to be especially careful of our use of these single use plastics.

**SAY:**

* **Kids vs Plastic: How can we manage our use of plastic to better care for our common home?**
* Plastic pollution is an international crisis for humans and animals and the problem is growing. What can we do to make things better?
* Many of the products that we use every day are made from plastic. These objects are useful and convenient, but we never think of what happens to them when we are finished with them and we throw them away.
* Let’s watch a video on how our daily plastic habits can affect our common home.

**VIDEO CHOICES:** (consider watching all 3)

* “All the Way to the Ocean” at <https://youtu.be/sZW2ByM623g>
  + 14-minute cartoon video about trash and the ocean. Based on the book by Joel Harper.
* “The Problem with Plastics” at <https://youtu.be/526gMLHDVLg>
  + 3-minute documentary about single-use plastics and our water sources.
* “The Life Cycle of a Plastic Bottle” at <https://youtu.be/_6xlNyWPpB8>
  + 4-minute cartoon documentary about plastic.

**DISCUSSION:**

**What happens to the plastic we throw away?**

* Plastics can be thrown away or recycled. Plastics that are thrown away can last for over 400 years in landfills or they can find their way into rivers and the oceans where they can hurt fish and other ocean wildlife. How can we handle plastics in a more responsible way?
* Name some of your favorite ocean creatures. Think of how those creatures are affected by the plastics that find their way to their home, the ocean. 90% of sea birds and 85% of sea turtles have plastics in their stomachs.
* Help your favorite sea creatures by committing to reducing the plastics you throw away.

**How can we use plastics responsibly? Refuse, reduce and recycle.**

* **Refuse** plastic when alternatives are available. Ask for paper straws. Use washable glasses.
* **Reduce** by using reusable water bottles. Bring reusable bags to the grocery store or reuse the bags from your last shopping trip.
* **Recycle** plastics where possible. Learn which plastics are accepted by city recycling and recycle.

**ACTION**

* Students conduct a trash audit at home this week to take a closer look at what you are throwing away.
* After the week, look at your plastic habits and pick one thing that you can take action against in the next month.

**Ideas for a plastic-less Halloween** <https://kids.nationalgeographic.com/content/dam/kids/photos/articles/Nature/H-P/KidsVsPlastic/plastic-free-halloween.pdf>