

# SPOTLIGHT ON STUDENTS

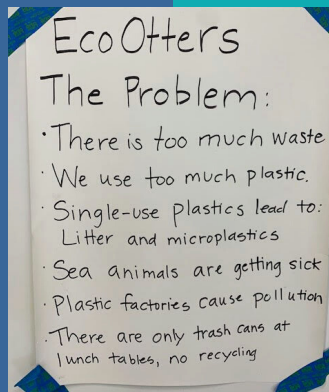
SOLANA BEACH SCHOOL DISTRICT  
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## Skyline's Eco Otters Set Goals for Zero Waste

BY PRINCIPAL  
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Skyline students are passionate about protecting the environment and advocating for zero waste on their campus. In June, the Eco Otters from Skyline and the Enviro Hawks from Solana Ranch School came together to share with the Solana Beach School District (SBSD) Board of Education the importance of eliminating single-use plastics. *(Photo, top right: Members of Skyline Eco Otters.)*

Students addressed the Board and District leadership with passionate voices about eliminating the single-use plastic packets filled with sporks, straws, and napkins. The Board and SBSB heard the voices of our students and, as a result, Skyline now offers individual spork, straw, and napkin options without the plastic bags during lunchtime. More students are only using sporks, thus reducing waste and straws on the Skyline campus. *(Photo, inset: Notes from a recent meeting of the Eco Otters in which students discussed ways to mitigate the real-world issue of waste and identified specific topics.)*



“

**We should plan an assembly to show other kids our ideas and to give them ideas for things that they can do.”**

**Nathaniel, 5th grade student**

“

**What if we have the whole school vote on these ideas?”**

**Maton, 3rd grade student**

# Zero Waste Campus Planning (cont.)

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**We could have a waste-free week when we ask kids to bring their own utensils, cups, and napkins.”**

**Cole, 6th grade student**

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**I can bring the idea of a waste-free week back to the Student Council, because we can help the club plan it.”**

**Olivia, 4th grade student**

During the 2019-2020 school year, the Eco Otters continue to work together to help protect our environment. Students have already met several times during their lunchtime to work on the idea of zero waste on the school campus. Skyline parents Shawna McGarry and Anne Paulsen are leading the Eco Otters lunch club this year, along with support from Noami Pines and Chris Wakeham.

Students are brainstorming realistic ideas to mitigate the issue of waste. They have discussed concepts such as using compostable or reusable utensils and trays, along with adding recycling bins to the lunch area. They plan to launch their projects with other Skyline students at a kick-off assembly. They believe it is important to educate others and share their enthusiasm with their peers.

STREAM (Science, Technology, Research, Engineering, Art, and Mathematics) is a major focus of SBSB and supported by the Solana Beach Schools Foundation; the Skyline Eco Otters are embracing STREAM. By identifying waste as a real-world problem, they are now trying to find a successful solution to achieve zero waste. Students are taking the lead in this work, with the adults helping facilitate the conversation and guiding future action steps. As students continue to dive into this important work, the Skyline community welcomes support and input from members of the Skyline community at-large. *(Photo, below: Eco Otters with Board members and District leaders, June.)*

