

# 2010 *What Matters?* Competition

## YEAR 5/6 RUNNER-UP

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### Go Green!

*'Modern technology owes ecology an apology', Alan M. Eddison*

Many of the people whom I have met so far in my life always at some point utter, 'Life is getting better by the minute, isn't it?' If the reply is affirmative, they would nod and beam in complete satisfaction and agreement. However, if I eventually conclude, 'it is not', the reaction would usually be shown by the raising of their eyebrows and the suspicious looks on their faces as they strolled off.

I do agree that our life is becoming easier and less demanding with the development of modern technology. We have up-to-date computers, telephones that enable us to contact people at the touch of a button, cars, machines... the list goes on. Seemingly we are enjoying a better life nowadays. Nevertheless, we are living in a seriously polluted environment and our planet is constantly under the threat of global warming. The situation will get worse if no action is taken right away. Therefore, 'going green' matters!

It doesn't seem to matter to some of us when we print out 500 pages of paperwork instead of using a softcopy. That roughly means cutting down 6% of one lovely tree which provides us with oxygen. It does matter to be eco-friendly. Next time when we go shopping, buy recycled paper instead of normal, plan paper.

While we are driving the flashiest and latest model cars or 4WD, it doesn't appear to matter to us that our cars are emitting harmful fumes into the once-picturesque environment. A speedy way to arrive at our destination is all that we care. It matters! For the sake of our natural surroundings, ride a bike or take public transport (buses, trains, ferries, boats, trams and many more) or even walk to our venue.

Depict this: a girl is planning to re-use a plastic bag. As she takes the plastic shopping bag to her room, her mother quickly objects. "Throw that bag away. I can buy you plenty of bags if you require them." However, the girl looks worried. "Don't worry! It is only one plastic bag. It won't matter!" exclaims the mother as she notices her daughter's anxious and concerned face. The girl finally gives up and chucks the bag out. It does matter!!! What if everyone in our neighbourhood thinks in the same way? Help the environment and others in our society by being eco-friendly. In this situation, we can help by reducing, re-using and recycling. It is estimated that at least 60% of what an average family throws away can be recycled. Moreover, instead of using fertiliser for gardening, use compost. Yard and kitchen waste (leaves, grass or vegetable scraps) are 30% of trash and would make an excellent replacement for fertiliser.

If we are hungry, we could go and help ourselves to a piece of scrumptious éclair that we find in our packed kitchen pantry; brush our teeth if we think that our breath is going foul and fetid; put a band-aid around our leg if we have tripped over and badly bruised our leg. We can take care of ourselves and help ourselves to whatever we need. Nevertheless, the environment around us cannot sustain by itself if we don't care for it. Therefore, 'going green' matters! It will help to save our earth and eventually provide us with a truly better life!