

Andrews Middle School
Administrative Office
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Medford, MA 02155
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Timothy S. Blake
Principal

Paul D'Alleva
Asst. Principal

12/17/09

Dear Andrews' Families,

Did you know that the average American school spends more on energy than on textbooks and computers combined? It's true- but it doesn't have to be that way.

Beginning in January, we will be working with National Grid to take the ENERGY STAR Challenge and reduce our energy consumption by 10% or more. We have identified ways to save energy with more efficient equipment, and are also considering other ways we can save, like being mindful of shutting off equipment when we are done.

You have the power to save at home, too. That is why we're launching this monthly newsletter to share energy saving tips with our families and community, and keep you updated on our progress in school.

Did you know?

- The buildings where we work, shop, play and educate our children use about \$200 billion worth of electricity and natural gas each year, and are responsible for 45% of our national greenhouse gas emissions.
- The US EPA estimates that if the energy efficiency of commercial and industrial buildings in the US improved by 10%, Americans would save about \$20 billion and reduce greenhouse gas emissions equal to those generated by 30 million vehicles.
- US schools spent about \$6 billion on energy –second largest expense after personnel.
- In a typical school, about 25% of the energy is wasted through inefficiency.
 - According to the U.S. Department of Energy, the potential \$1.5 billion savings represents the equivalent of 30,000 new teachers.

When we reduce energy consumption, we also do our part to reduce the effects of global warming. Most of our energy today (74%) comes from non-renewable fossil fuels such as coal, oil and natural gas. In fact, almost half of the electricity we use today comes from burning coal, which pollutes the environment and is a primary cause of global warming.

So saving energy isn't just good for your wallet - it is also good for the planet.

Andrews Middle School in partnership with Hallmark Health
"Excellence Through Responsibility and Respect"

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Over the remainder of the school year, we will be discussing energy and environmental issues in our classrooms. We will be sending you information on how our entire community can be more energy efficient. By involving the whole Andrews School community in our efforts, we can make a big, big difference. Together, we have the power to save!

Sincerely,



Timothy S. Blake
Co-Chair Andrews Site Council

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