

BOARD OF EDUCATION OF THE CITY OF NEW YORK  
Office of Instructional Services  
BUREAU OF SCIENCE  
131 Livingston Street  
Brooklyn, N. Y. 11201

February 16, 1970

TO: DISTRICT SUPERINTENDENTS;  
PRINCIPALS OF ALL SCHOOLS

Ladies and Gentlemen:

A national "teach-in" to focus attention on the nature and hazards of environmental pollution and the proposals for coping with these problems is scheduled to be held on Wednesday, April 22, 1970 in all the schools and educational institutions of the United States.

The Bureau of Science is represented on the Mayor's Task Force for April 22 and is cooperating with the New York State Action for Cleaner Air Committee, the New York City Clean Air Week Committee, the Department of Air Resources and other agencies to develop appropriate projects and programs for the "teach-in."

In the interim, district and school personnel may wish to begin to prepare events to precede, take place on and follow the April 22 date. As a guide to the planners, we have prepared the following list of suggested activities that can be undertaken on a district-wide or school-wide basis:

1. Prepare a graphic display to show the types and the sources of environmental pollution.
2. Survey and record the sources that contribute to the pollution of the school neighborhood. Make and implement plans to curtail these sources through pupil and community actions.

3. Survey and record the sources that contribute to pollution in the schools. Develop campaigns to curtail these sources.
4. Survey and record the sources that contribute to pollution in the homes. Map out and take steps to eliminate these sources.
5. Survey and record the sources that contribute to the pollution of rivers, lakes or oceans in the vicinity of the schools. Develop community actions to curb the polluters.
6. Organize and conduct town meetings involving students, teachers, parents, industry representatives and scientists to consider pollution problems and proposed solutions.
7. Present assembly programs to demonstrate the science of measuring and checking pollution.
8. Post reports of pollution levels on special bulletin boards.
9. Prepare exhibits on the effects of pollution on living things.
10. Organize pupils into Volunteer Air Pollution Observer and Reporter (VAPOR) squads to keep track of and work to eliminate neighborhood sources of pollution.
11. Set up anti-litter squads to campaign for cleaner streets.
12. Schedule visits to schools of the mobile air pollution monitoring vans of the Department of Air Resources.
13. Publish school anti-pollution bulletins. In them give specific steps that parents and pupils can take to reduce pollution at home, at school and in the neighborhood.



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14. Arrange visits to the exhibit at the American Museum of Natural History entitled, "Can Man Survive?"
15. Conduct photographic, poster and composition contests in such themes as:

- What is Pollution?
- How Pollution Harms Me.
- What I Can Do To Stop Pollution.

16. Conduct anti-pollution science fairs.

"Environment Day," April 22, 1970, provides our schools with an unusual opportunity to raise the level of public awareness and understanding of the fact that the human race is threatened with extinction if we do not act quickly and forcefully to check the engulfing tide of environmental pollution. With your cooperation and leadership, it appears certain that the New York City Public Schools will make a significant contribution to the success of the April 22 "teach-in."

Sincerely yours,

HARRY MILGROM  
Director of Science (Acting)

APPROVED:  
SEELIG LESTER  
Deputy Superintendent



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