

Students urge increase of environmental action on Earth Day

Naomi Block
Staff Writer

Earth Day on April 22 is a time that serves as a reminder not only to celebrate the planet, but to reflect on contributions to the Earth, positive and negative, both as individuals and as a community.

Over the years, the school has undergone many projects to help combat the climate crisis. According to Ms. Marisa Wilson, former high school sustainability lead, some things our community has done include putting solar panels on the roof of the Canons Park building and changing the lights to LED lights in order to greatly reduce non-renewable energy usage.

However, much more could be done: from considering the carbon impact of transportation and trips, to reducing the footprint of our school’s food choices, the school still has changes to be made, claims Wilson.

However, before solutions are proposed and integrated, awareness needs to be widespread, eighth-grade advocate for sustainability Audrey Schofield said. “Nothing can be done if people are not informed and educated on the issue,”

Taking action stems from understanding and awareness. With this in mind,

some feel that the school could be doing more climate education. “We also need to create a greater awareness, via... the adults in the building passing on this knowledge [to the students],” Wilson said.

In the past, many student-led initiatives have taken place, and there has been a large calling for environmental action in the middle school, especially before the pandemic. Wilson re-

calls that “prior to COVID, we had like 150 kids leaving school to go on the climate marches... the momentum was building. People were getting really excited and into en-

ronmental issues.”

In the aftermath of the pandemic, however, students, faculty and much of the global community have been less compelled to fight for social and environmental action, and “progress has stalled” Wilson said.

Additionally, Ms. Alison Muthig, middle school sustainability lead sug-

gests that student interest has been decreasing. This year, the middle school ‘Green Team’ is nonexistent primarily due to a lack of interest.

Even it is not acknowledged, global warming and environmental struggles continue to be prevalent. In times when young people worldwide and locally are more and more deterred from protest by news stories, fear of standing out, and institutional regulations, student voice needs to be stimulated again in our community, claims both Muthig and Wilson.

Earth Day is a prompt to remember that, in addition to our academic, cultural, and social duties, students also have an obligation to protect this planet. “Everything we have is because of the Earth, both the living and the nonliving parts of the Earth, and we need to take care of that,” Wilson said.



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