APES FINAL PROJECT

**THE POWER OF ONE**

*Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful committed people can change the world: indeed it's the only thing that ever has!*-Margaret Meade

***In place of a final exam in APES*** you will embark on an independent project whose goal is to make a positive difference in our local environment and community. The focus of your project is your choice but it must be related to something we learned about in APES that particularly intrigued you. Your project will culminate in a paper documenting your efforts in the community including your goals, what you did and what kind of difference you think you actually made and a presentation to the class about what you accomplished. My interest is for you to be involved in something meaningful to you, so please research and select your project carefully. Although we have been studying some very sobering changes happening our environment this year, we CAN all make a difference. Even if that means initiating the change by the action of one person- YOU. ***Never underestimate the ripple effect of good intentions!***

Your project idea and action plan is due on Friday, May 13th. The final paper is due on Monday, June 6th. The project will be presented as part of your final exam. **There will be NO extensions given for your paper or presentation!**

The following are some ***project ideas to consider***. Some of them need more research as to their validity. *Of course your own ideas are welcome as well!*

1. Teach elementary/middle school students about an environmental issue. Pick a subject that you learned this year and create a lesson plan and a block unit plan on that subject for a selected grade (choices are 1st through 9th). Present the lesson to the teacher (and the class if the teacher can fit it in to her/his end of the year curriculum.) Think about pairing with a class at Porter Elementary.

2. Get the Lincoln High School recycling program more widely utilized throughout the schools. See me for more information.

3. Contact a local (state) environmental organization and participate in one of their projects. Most of these sites have an email service of current alerts and actions on behalf of the environment. Select a hot issue and research what you can do to help. You need to actually get involved in the planning/organization of the project- for example: I Love a Clean San Diego beach clean-up, etc.

4. Write a children's book (with illustrations) that cover topics we discussed earlier in the year. Read the book to an elementary class and do a hands-on project with them. (Again: Porter Elementary)

5. Do some restoration work in the community. Contact the appropriate agencies and plant trees, shrubs and perennials around your community.

6. Conduct your own CLEAN SWEEP day in your neighborhood. Take before and after pictures. Document the extent of your clean up.

7. Make your home more energy/resource efficient. Note: you must have permission of your parents before you do ANYTHING!!!!

*fix dripping faucets
weatherstrip door/windows
get your family to switch to more environmentally friendly cleaning products
start a recycling campaign at home (visit the town dump and see how they handle recyclable materials)
find out how to dispose of used oil, old pesticides, and other toxic nasties
work out a plan to reduce your electric bills and water usage (go to the hardware store and learn about energy and water saving devices)
find out what kind of lawn mowers are better for the environment, etc.*

**\* Whatever you do at home- you MUST document with before/after photos**

11. Write an environmental article for a local paper like the Union Tribune or for ***The Voices of Lincoln***. *It must be published to get credit.*

12. Get involved in local environmental issues by attending local environmental meetings.

13. Prepare and distribute a handbook of locally available environmentally friendly products and organizations. Make a guide book for the Chamber of Commerce.

14. Organize an Earth Day celebration for our school next year-
***posters
information “booths”
brochures on how kids can make a difference***

15. Volunteer at a local organic farm or health food store. They could use your enthusiasm and help!

16. Volunteer at a local humane society or animal shelter. Do something meaningful for our homeless animals like giving them affection so they socialize better and have a better chance at being adopted.

17. Help an elderly neighbor with their yard work. Recycle yard waste and of course use no environmentally toxic pesticides. Take before and after pictures.

18. Research how Lincoln High School can reduce their use of copying paper. Create a document on your findings.

19. Start a recycling campaign at a local retirement community or other community organization (Jackie Robinson YMCA?)

20. Volunteer for Habitat for Humanity. Build a house for the needy. (Must be 18 but is VERY rewarding! Also- Habitat for Humanity as a local store- where building materials are recycled- you can volunteer to work.

21. Volunteer for the Salvation Army. Recycle clothes from your neighborhood.

22. What else CAN you THINK OF?

***Wow- the possibilities are numerous. Make it meaningful! Make a difference!***