



It's time to

Rethink the Trinket

in the HDSB



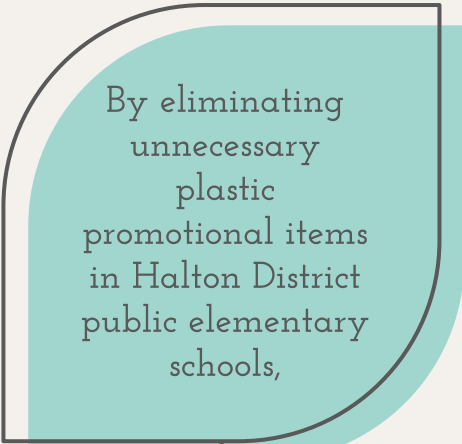
Get to know Rethink the Trinket: an initiative aiming to reduce our board's carbon footprint through phasing out unnecessary trinkets in elementary schools!

Laura



The Big Idea

What's our philosophy?



By eliminating unnecessary plastic promotional items in Halton District public elementary schools,



specifically disposable light-up toys commonly sold at dances and fundraising events,



our output of GHGs is reduced, decreasing our contribution to climate change and strengthening our identity as a sustainable community

Meet the Culprits

Why these trinkets?



Magnitude

In the mass amounts they are bought and sold, the impact of these items combined is quite massive, and does play a part in the climate crisis and environmental degradation.

Components

Not only is the plastic housing a source of greenhouse gas emissions through its production and disposal, but most glow toys contain button batteries (AG-13s) which leach mercury into soils and groundwater after reaching the landfill.



Why this method?

Elimination vs Alternative Replacements

When systematic changes like these are being made, the new solution must meet the needs of what it is replacing and perform them even better in order for it to be successful and impactful. By fully eliminating the trinkets and not compensating with replacements, the impact this has is fully maximized.

Fundraising Needs - *Schools receive a percentage of the profit made from selling the low-cost trinkets*

Without trinkets: Expenses for purchasing trinkets (or any alternatives) are eliminated, meaning all fundraised profits can be put forth for more meaningful and larger school purchases. Overall, schools profit more without trinkets or their alternatives.

Sustainability Needs - *This is an area not met by the current option (trinkets) at all*

Without trinkets: By eliminating the option to purchase unnecessary items more emissions are reduced and less resources are needed. Environmental responsibility is magnified by opting out completely.

Entertainment Needs - *A tradition at dances, they are presumed to keep students entertained + happy*

Without trinkets: The enjoyment of the events will not decrease - we feel most elementary school students are indifferent to the light-up toys; however, if they are available students will buy them. For the students, the enjoyment should be in the dance, or even in the music and lights which specifically serve that purpose, not in items which are tossed out soon after.



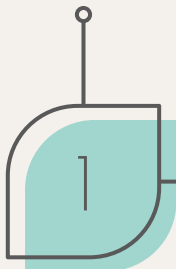


Progress

What we've done and what's to come

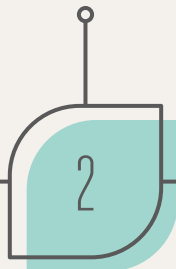
November 2019 - January 2020

The birth of *Rethink the Trinket!* Collaboration with the Halton Climate Collective and members of HDSB



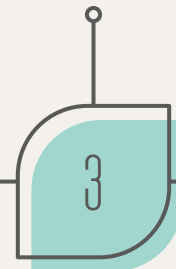
February 2020

Support and guidance of HDSB Trustee Tanya Rocha



In the near future!

Proposal to Halton's Board of Trustees and Parent Involvement Committee, and hopefully, the implementation of *Rethink the Trinket* in HDSB



Impact

What does this really mean?



*assuming most trinkets are made of polystyrene (PS), a hard, inexpensive plastic resin

[Transport overseas is a major contributor, but is not accounted for here.]

0.025kg wand + 0.090kg headband + 0.160kg crown + 0.018kg ring + 0.031kg necklace + 0.024kg bracelet
= 0.348kg/6 items
= 0.058 kg

^ calculations for finding the approximate weight of the average trinket.
The above 6 trinkets are usually most popular at dances and school events.

To account for total quantity



The number of toys ordered for one dance at Montclair Public School (population 458) was estimated.
If 65% ordered at least one toy = 298
If 65% of those 298 ordered 2 toys = $298+193 = 491$
If 15% of those 193 ordered 3 toys = $298+193+29 = 520$
Approximately 520 toys were ordered.

520 : 458 is the assumed average ratio of toy to student per school



Impact cont'd

What does this really mean?

45,875 students
are in HDSB
elementary schools

If t rep. # of total trinkets

$$520 : 458 = t : 45,875$$

$$t = 52,085$$

Approximately 52,085 trinkets are
purchased board-wide per annual dance



Weight of 1 trinket = 0.058 kg

52,085 total trinkets

3,020.93 kg = total weight of plastic polystyrene
bought in HDSB elementary schools

7,845.418 kg of
CO₂

and

2,491.744 kg of
CO₂ equivalents

Since methane is 25x
more potent as a
greenhouse gas than CO₂



carbon dioxide (CO₂):

$$2.6 \text{ kg} : 1 \text{ kg PS} = 7,845.418 \text{ kg} : 3,020.93 \text{ kg PS}$$

methane (CH₄):

$$0.032 \text{ kg} : 1 \text{ kg PS} = 99.66976 \text{ kg} : 3,020.93 \text{ kg PS}$$



To find weight
in GHGs



**A total of approximately 10,346.162 kg* of CO₂ equivalents would be
reduced from entering Earth's atmosphere annually!**

*that's more than the weight of 6 giraffes! Or 1½ T-Rexes!



Schools emphasize the importance of young generations and teach them about positive change and societal responsibility, emphasizing messages of compassion and respect towards the environment. They should be equally as responsible in following through with their actions and the opportunities they provide students. Through partaking in impactful and meaningful change, students have the affirmation they *can* and *do* influence widespread issues such as the climate crisis.

It all starts with rethinking the necessity of trinkets in our schools and paying them a long overdue farewell.

Thank you!

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