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## Lakeview's eco-warriors

### Grimsby school endorses litterless lunches

While their fellow schoolmates were outside enjoying what was left of their noon-hour recess, Grade 7 students enrolled in the French immersion program at Lakeview School were rolling up their sleeves to take on somewhat of a stomach-turning adventure.

It began on Oct. 13, when the students, 84 of them, began collecting trash cans and recycle bins from each classroom, and the staff room, after lunch. The contents of each bin were then dumped onto a tarp, arranged by room, and sorted into waste and recyclables. What students found was a collective 101 pounds of waste — 60 per cent of which was headed for landfill and 40 per cent to recycling.

Letters were sent home with students to outline the school's eco club's Eco Lunch program, which encouraged students to bring earth-friendly lunches to school the following week. Parents were encouraged to use reusable



**Lakeview's eco-warriors.** The scale tells it all. Jacqueline Tousaw stands on the scale with a blue box full of recyclables from one of the classes at Lakeview Friday. The school was participating in an eco lunch program which encouraged them to cut down on waste. Grade 7 students in the French immersion program were responsible for sorting and weighing the waste — garbage, recycling and organics — from each class. The school cut back its waste consumption by 52 per cent during the week-long experiment. *AMANDA STREET/STAFF PHOTO*

containers rather than plastic sandwich bags, pack fruits which don't require packaging and to use reusable water bottles rather than disposable ones. The result — an average of 52 per cent less waste per day.

"It's smelly and messy but the kids are really excited about it," said teacher Michelle Knerr, a member of the eco club who was running the lunch program with colleagues Julie Arsenault-Howick and Nicole Netherway. "They are doing a really good job with it."

With the program winding down Friday one student could be heard saying, "I'm glad that's over."

The eco lunch is one initiative being rolled out at the school as the club aims for an Eco School designation this year, said Knerr. While they won't be revisiting a week of garbage audits again, they do plan to host waste free Wednesdays in the future.

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