

## **New bins dedicated for cardboard recycling**

The fifth-grade recycling team at Veterans Park Elementary School kicked off a new phase of the WasteBuster initiative in Fayette County Public Schools on Jan. 28, dedicating a new blue bin just for cardboard.

“If you just throw it away, it takes a long time to decompose. It’s better to reuse it than let it rot in the ground,” said 10-year-old Jordan Graves.

Wal-Mart has contributed more than \$16,000 for cardboard-only recycling bins countywide. Fifteen elementary and middle schools will get one (see list below).

“We like to donate money right back to the community and see that positive impact,” said Jason Wetzel, a senior manager in public affairs at Wal-Mart.

Wetzel was on hand for the dedication at Veterans Park Elementary, along with school and district leaders and representatives from LFUCG and Bluegrass PRIDE.

Twelve other existing dumpsters, including one at the It’s About Kids Support Services office, will be reallocated just for cardboard to use them more efficiently.

Fayette County schools have participated in the WasteBuster program since the fall of 2006; nearly three dozen are on board this year. Participating schools analyze their waste and develop plans to reduce trash and recycle what they can.

“By recycling, we actually stand to save some money for the district, so we’re excited about that,” Mary Browning Wright, the district’s chief operating officer, said at the Jan. 28 news conference.

LFUCG and Bluegrass PRIDE align WasteBuster activities with schools’ core content instruction and pick up the recyclables.

Carol Bradford, an environmental educator with Bluegrass PRIDE, brings her message of “reduce, re-use and recycle” into the classrooms and explains why conserving natural resources and saving landfill space are important.

“I want to present something different to think about,” she said.

The WasteBuster program is funded by the Lexington-Fayette Urban County Government’s Department of Environmental Quality, Division of Waste Management. For more details, contact Maxine Rudder, education director at Bluegrass PRIDE, at (859) 266-1572.

\* The 15 schools getting a new recycling bin for cardboard:

Athens-Chilesburg Elementary

Clays Mill Elementary

Dixie Elementary

Garden Springs Elementary

Julius Marks Elementary

Leestown Middle

Mary Todd Elementary

Meadowthorpe Elementary

Northern Elementary

Picadome Elementary

Rosa Parks Elementary

Russell Cave Elementary

Southern Elementary

Stonewall Elementary  
Veterans Park Elementary

\* The schools now dedicating an existing dumpster for cardboard:

Bryan Station Traditional Magnet

Bryan Station High

Crawford Middle

Jessie M. Clark Middle

Lexington Traditional Magnet

Morton Middle

Paul Laurence Dunbar High

Southern Middle

Tates Creek High

Winburn Middle

Yates Elementary



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