

# Coventry Board of Education

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**PRESS RELEASE**

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Date: March 18, 2009

The Capt. Nathan Hale Middle School students from Coventry who make up the Coventry Care Takers group have won first place in the state in the Community Future Problem Solvers competition! They will be recognized for their project at the awards ceremony to be held on March 28, 2009, at 6:30 p.m. at E.O. Smith High School. The team has been invited to compete at the Future Problem Solving International Conference in Lansing, Michigan in May.

For this competition students Michael Clausen, Shane Flynn, Molly Funk, Stephanie Morin, Kaitlyn Sabin, Emma Gould, Nicole Hosey, Tasha Valentin Jucius, Rebecca Pranger, Brooke Vaillancourt, Samantha Moriarty, and Hannah Vignone, under the guidance of their teacher, Carla Kennedy and teacher's assistant Denise McDermott, worked together to determine a problem in their school and community. They then used the problem solving process to determine the underlying problem, generate and evaluate solutions, and implement the best plan of action.

The focus for these Capt. Nathan Hale students was a multifaceted ecology project, pioneering a recycling initiative in the community with the focus on "going green" and raising awareness in the community about the importance of this issue. This initiative has been broken down into three segments which are: recycling, electronic waste collection, and composting.

The students have run an educational campaign and have given several presentations to students in grades 3 to 8 on the "how to components" of composting, and they have held a fundraiser for disposing of electronic waste properly. The students have worked closely with the district's Physical Plant and Facilities Director, Paul Noel, and the custodial staff to conduct scientific research and data collection that have resulted in trash reduction and composting, an initiative which has been cost effective to the district.



These students have also developed community awareness about environmental issues. On March 7 and 8, 2009, the team made a presentation at the Windham Region Chamber of Commerce 3rd Annual Home and Business Expo, held at the Eastbrook Mall where they also earned third place for the best booth centered around this year's theme, "Going Green, Saving Energy".

Shown here are Gr. 7 students Tasha Valentin Jucius, Emma Gould, and Kaitlyn Sabin.

For further information, please contact the Capt. Nathan Hale Middle School at 742-7334