

# Fostering Sustainable Development: A Holistic Approach by an Eco-Campus Committee & Student Sustainability Clubs at an International School

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1st International Conference of FEE EcoCampus

SUPPORTED BY:





# INTRODUCTION

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A case study illustrating how a Nursery-12th grade international school has cultivated student engagement and involvement in developing and executing Eco-School initiatives, while advancing the Sustainable Development Goals.



BENJAMIN FRANKLIN  
INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL



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If we want children to flourish, to become truly empowered, then let us allow them to love the earth before we ask them to save it.

- David Sobel, *Beyond Ecophobia*

# STAGES

of Environmental  
Readiness

## Empathy Ages 3-7

### Finding Animal Allies



#### Characteristics

- Thinking of home and yard
- Empathy and bonding
- Wonder
- Imagination
- Emotional regulation
- Playfulness
- Rapid physical/intellectual development



#### Goals

- Cultivate connectedness as an emotional foundation
- Foster connections that practice ecology to develop empathy with the natural world, and encourage feelings for creatures



#### Activities

- Stories and songs
- Move like animals
- Celebrate seasons
- Cultivate relationships with animals real and imagined
- Bird curriculum
- Animal spirits
- Inner zoology



*Beyond  
Ecophobia  
Stages  
Resource*

# STAGES

of Environmental  
Readiness

## Action Ages 16-18 Change the World



#### Characteristics

- Civic engagement
- Global perspective
- Intellectually driven
- Goal oriented and passionate
- Group and individual identity



#### Goals

- Sustainability Focus
- on global issues
- Engage in complex topics such as: climate change, energy, biodiversity, law and economics, environmental science and studies



#### Activities

- Model United Nations
- LEAP
- Greenstone
- Biobus
- School leadership
- Assemblies and mentorship
- V Day
- Permaculture

# Eco Schools Program Structure

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## Eco - Committee

Leadership, Faculty & Staff, HS, MS, & ES  
Students, Parents

## Secondary School (Grades 6 - 12)

HS Going Green Club  
(Grades 9 - 11)

Gardening Club  
(Grades 6 - 10)

## Early Childhood & Elementary School

4 & 5 Green Team  
and  
Classroom Units

Forest School  
(EC - Grade 3)

# Eco-Committee Meeting 2023 - 2024







# Student Action Clubs

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## HS Going Green Club

Meets for 2 30-minute sessions in an 8-day cycle.



## Gardening FLEX

Meets twice a week for 45 minutes each time.



## 4th & 5th Grade Green Team

Meets weekly with a focus on student-centered projects and education.



## Forest School

Weekly sessions dependent on age.



# MISSION AND VALUES

## Values Brainstorm

Mentimeter

sustainability  
responsibility action educate  
collaboration  
protect empower



## Mission Statement

Mentimeter

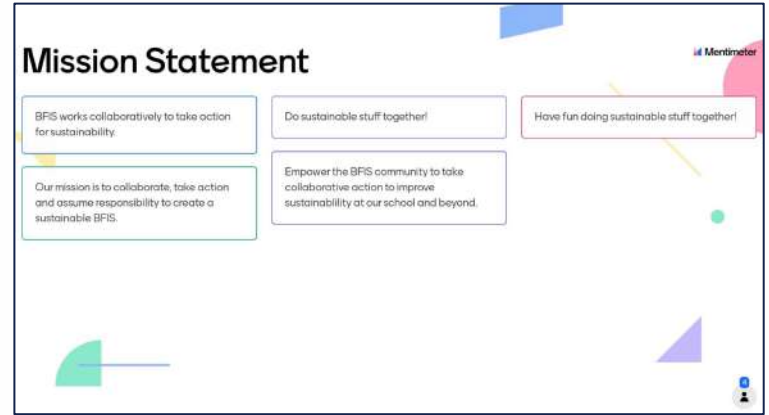
BFIS works collaboratively to take action for sustainability.

Do sustainable stuff together!

Have fun doing sustainable stuff together!

Our mission is to collaborate, take action and assume responsibility to create a sustainable BFIS.

Empower the BFIS community to take collaborative action to improve sustainability at our school and beyond.



Mission statement:

Empower the BFIS community to collaborate for sustainable action at our school and beyond.

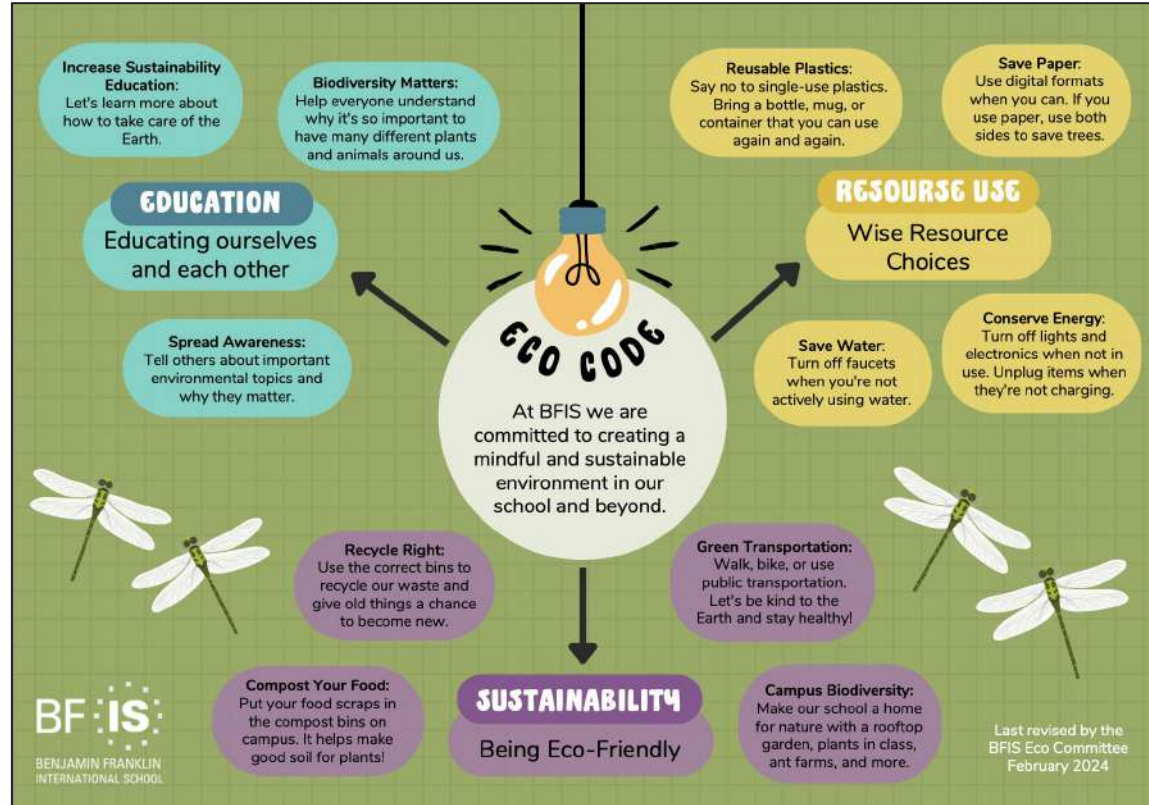


# Eco-Code Development

## THE BFIS ECO-CODE

AT BFIS WE ARE COMMITTED TO HELPING SAVE OUR PLANET, SO WE VOW TO:

1. EDUCATE ONE ANOTHER
2. STOP OUR USE OF SINGLE-USE PLASTICS
3. MINIMIZE OUR USE OF PAPER IN ALL ITS FORMS
4. ONLY TURN LIGHTS ON WHEN ABSOLUTELY NEEDED
5. ENSURE THAT WATER IS USED RESPONSIBLY
6. SORT OUT OUR TRASH AND PUT IT IN THE CORRECT BIN SO IT CAN BE RECYCLED
7. SOURCE AS MUCH OF OUR ENERGY AS POSSIBLE FROM RENEWABLE SOURCES
8. USE PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION OR GREEN FORMS OF TRANSPORT (ELECTRIC CARS, WALKING, BIKING...)
9. BECOME ETHICAL CONSUMERS WHILE BUYING FROM LOCAL BUSINESSES
10. CREATE A GARDEN WITH NATIVE PLANTS
11. NOT WASTE FOOD



# Engaging Students in Action Towards the Goals



**CLOTHING SWAP**

KINDERGARTEN - 5 GRADE  
FRIDAY MAY 3RD, 4:00-4:30  
AUDITORIUM



BRING 3 CLOTHES TO SCHOOL TO SWAP FOR 3 DIFFERENT CLOTHES.

YOU CAN HELP OUR PLANET

**RACE AGAINST HUNGER**

**5KM RUN OR WALK!**

**SAT 20 APRIL 9AM**

Participate in a fundraising race against hunger in Cameroon and Barcelona!

Carretera de les Aigües

Sign up here!



For all BFIS Community! Participants will donate in advance and receive a t-shirt + bib for the run.

**INCLUDES AFTER PARTY FOR RUNNERS!**  
FOOD, MUSIC,...

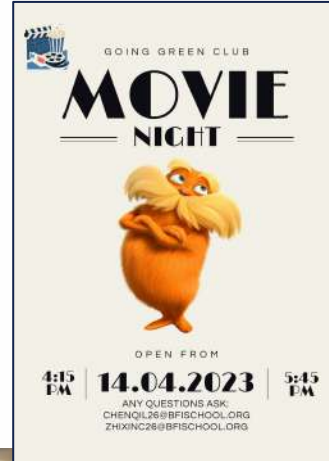
FOR MORE INFORMATION: VALERIAM3@BFISCHOOL.ORG



# Rooftop Garden



# Education Opportunities



# Responsible Consumption



# OCEAN ACTION PROJECTS

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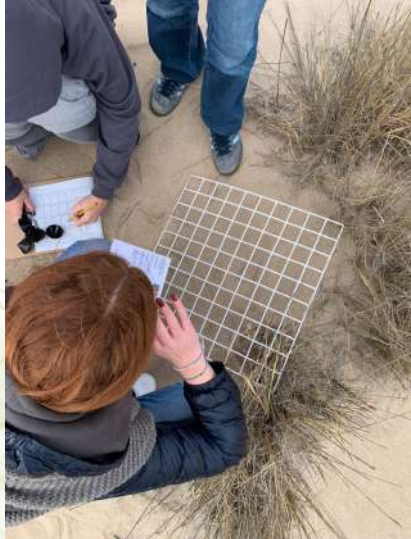




# Focus on Ecology



DP Biology & ESS Fieldwork Trip to the  
Torredembarra Dune Management Project



MYP 4 & 5 Ecology Unit - dissecting owl  
pellets as an introduction to learning  
about food chains





# Forest School

## Nursery - Grade 3

Students take regular trips to a forest near school to engage in experiential learning opportunities and enjoy being in nature.



# Partnerships for the goals.

17 PARTNERSHIPS  
FOR THE GOALS



Alella  
Green  
Tech

**HUERTOS**  
*in the Sky*



## Participating Schools:

1. American School of Barcelona (organizers)
2. BFIS
3. Emilio Sanchez American School
4. British College of Gava
5. St. George Barcelona



## Next Steps:

1. Green Flag Award Renewal on May 22nd
2. **Eco-Committee:** Identify EcoSchools theme for the 2024 - 2025 school year, Environmental Review in fall 2024, action plan
3. **HS Going Green Club:** International Food Fair sustainability awareness, Organize and lead EcoDay to teach about biodiversity
4. **Gardening Club:** Grow plant seedlings, Salad Party Celebration!
  - a. Organize a Gardening Committee and parent volunteers
5. **Grade 4 & 5 Green Team:** Lead drought education in the ES, get more plants into the classrooms.
6. **Forest School:** Expand program to other grades.

# Thank you!

Do you have any questions?



*Beyond Ecophobia*  
Stages Resource



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# References:

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