

SUSTAINABILITY NEWS

18/12/17

On Friday the 15th of December, Meg from CERES came to help us do an energy audit to help us save energy because there is no Planet B. We did the energy audit as a requirement to get our Energy Star. It was interesting to look at the kettle. It was using 2,060 kilowatts of energy when it was on! A good learning temperature is 24-26 degrees Celsius in summer and 18-21 degrees in winter. So check your temperature when using your air conditioner.

We used a machine called a power mate. We had to plug it in the wall and then plug in the appliance so we could measure how many kilowatts of energy each uses. I was surprised to see how many kilowatts the clothes drier uses. It uses 2,300 kilowatts, so hang out your washing on hot days. I was also surprised to see that the fridge uses more energy when you open it. We talked about how it has to work harder to keep cool so we shouldn't stand with the fridge door open. We discovered that the computers use power when they are off. They use 0.4 kilowatts of power. That's a lot of power if you multiply that by the number of computers we have; about 40!

We went around to some classrooms to measure the light in the rooms with lights on and off. We also looked at the temperature and appliances. We found out that the items that heat up use the most kilowatts for example, the laminator, microwave, kettle, toasters etc. We are now curious to find out how many kilowatts a hair drier might use.

Our next step is to delamp some of our lights which means we take some lights away and switch any lights that haven't already been replaced with LED. We will be going around to each room in our school on the last day to make sure that everything is switched off at the wall for the holidays.

By Harper, Harrison and Caitlyn

