

[Close Window](#)[Send To Printer](#)

## Little Chico Creek School cashes in on the recycling bug

By CHRIS GULLICK - Staff Writer  
Chico Enterprise-Record

Article Launched: 04/22/2007 03:20:26 AM PDT

Two classes at Little Chico Creek School have taken advantage of recycling challenges and will use their proceeds to help fund class trips — sixth-graders have been working toward going to environmental camp and fourth-graders have been raising funds for a Gold Rush study field trip.

But sixth-grade teacher Robert Preston offered another reason besides earning a little cash.

"If they start it here, maybe they'll begin a life-long habit," he said.

Preston's class has been recycling all year long, collecting glass, plastic and aluminum, and sorting it into trash containers for NorCal Waste to pick up. The class gets credit for its recyclables, as long as they are sorted and placed in appropriate bins, with all the plastic and aluminum smashed.

Karen Weaver's fourth-grade class collected plastic grocery bags to compete in the Wal-Mart Kids Recycling Challenge.

Tim Aldin, a 10-year-old in Weaver's class, said small teams of students visited other classes at the school when they launched the project last fall, explaining what they were trying to do and soliciting schoolwide support.

They learned facts about recycling, pollution and plastic to convince others to help them.

"The plastic takes like 400 years or something to decompose in a landfill," Tim explained.

Many of the bags make their way into the ocean, too, classmate Jessica Miranda added, and marine animals eat them.

"They think it's food or something," she said.

They placed boxes around campus so students and their parents could contribute and by the end of the competition, March 30, they had collected 45 60-gallon containers of the grocery bags, turning them in at Wal-Mart for a \$5 credit each.

Wal-Mart offered prizes for schools that collected the most, Weaver said, but her motive in joining the competition was to educate the students and earn some cash toward field trips that would enrich their education, too.

Sixth-grader Ashley Halkola, smashing cans and plastic bottles on the school's parking lot, explained the two-fold benefits of recycling.

"You get to save the environment and get money for environmental camp," she said.

Preston thought raising money by recycling was an appropriate tie-in to the class's environmental studies, which will culminate with a four-day trip to Whiskeytown Lake.

But their efforts, filling four or five garbage bins every few weeks, represents just a small part of the expense. The class also conducted three food events to fund the trip.

Staff writer Chris Gullick can be reached at 896-7760 or [cgullick@chicoer.com](mailto:cgullick@chicoer.com).