



THE HEWITT SCHOOL

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

STUDENTS TAKE ON PLASTIC BAGS - CITY-WIDE CONFERENCE TO EMPOWER STUDENTS TO EFFECT ENVIRONMENTAL CHANGE

The Hewitt School and Green Schools Alliance will be hosting a city-wide conference, open to all NYC middle and high school students, called Students Take On Plastic Bags (S.T.O.P. Bags)

This unique student-led conference will feature a keynote address by Ron Gonen, NYC Deputy Commissioner for Recycling and Sustainability.

The conference will also feature Manhattan Borough President, Gale Brewer, as a special speaker and guest judge. Additional judges include:

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| - Lisa Bloodgood | (Community Liaison & Environmental Advisor for CM Stephen Levin, Dist. 33) |
| - Eric Goldstein | (Natural Resources Defense Council) |
| - Ya-Ting Liu | (NY League of Conservation Voters) |
| - Saleen Shah | (Citizens Committee for NYC) |

Special mentor/student "coaching" sessions will be offered by noted environmental advocates for all student attendees. Some of these "coaches" include:

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| - Lily Belanger | (Program Director, No Impact Project) |
| - Jordan Christensen | (Citizens Campaign for the Environment) |
| - Tim Clare | (Surfrider Foundation) |
| - Ashel Eldridge | (environmental educator and entertainer) |
| - Gala Narezo | (Activist and Plastic Bag Mandela Artist) |
| - Veronique Pittman | (Green Schools Alliance) |
| - Eadaoin Quinn | (Education Coordinator for SIMS Municipal Recycling) |
| - Jennie Romer | (environmental lawyer and founder of plasticbaglaws.com) |
| - Leslie Mintz Tamminen | (Ocean Program Director, 7th Generation Advisors) |
| - Logan Welde | (Staff Attorney, Clean Air Council of Philadelphia) |

The conference seeks to empower middle and high school students on how to speak with their respective council member and how to testify before city council about the upcoming plastic bag legislation.

The conference will conclude with a student competition for the best one-minute testimonial/presentation,

and a performance of "**Plastic State of Mind**" by educator, rapper, emcee, producer, and founder of Earth Amplified, Ash-EI Eldridge.

As well, reducing plastic bag waste was part of Mayor de Blasio's campaign: quote from Framework for a Sustainable City:

"Bill de Blasio will institute a Zero Waste program: strengthening and expanding existing recycling, instituting composting programs, and establishing waste reduction programs, including, for example, bans on plastic bags and requiring more materials to be recyclable or compostable."

The conference will be hosted at The Hewitt School, located at 45 East 75th Street, running from 10am to 2pm on Saturday, March 1, 2014.

EVENT Contact

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