

# ECOVoyAGEURS



A MONTHLY NEWSLETTER FOR CANADIAN TEACHERS

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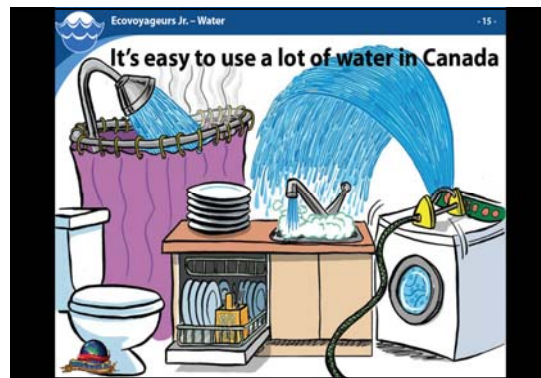
## Tell us how your actions are making a difference.

Summer is a quickly fading memory as the new school year swings into action. Sept 2009 is an especially exciting time for me, as it is the first time that the grade Kindergarten—Grade 5 environmental program, [EcoVoyageurs Junior](#) is available at [www.ecovoyageurs.ca](http://www.ecovoyageurs.ca).

There are lessons and supporting power point presentations for all the junior grades. Students will learn what an ecological footprint is and why water, energy, transportation, food and garbage are things we need to think about, and care about. Most importantly, there are [suggestions on simple things](#) we can do to reduce our footprint in all these areas.

And, if [you tell us](#) how you used the lesson plans and what actions your class took, your school will be eligible for one of 10

Award packages worth \$2,000 (\$500 for the teacher and \$1,500 for the school).



So there is a lot happening. I chose water as a feature this month because I spent a large portion of the summer enjoying the lake and river systems of Ontario and it reminded me of how lucky Canadians are to be near to some of the most beautiful water bodies on the planet. And we have an abundance of scenic lakes in our country— Crystal Lake in Saskatchewan, Bras d'Or Lake on Cape Breton Island, Blue Nose Lake in Nunavut and Lava Lake in British Columbia to mention just a few.

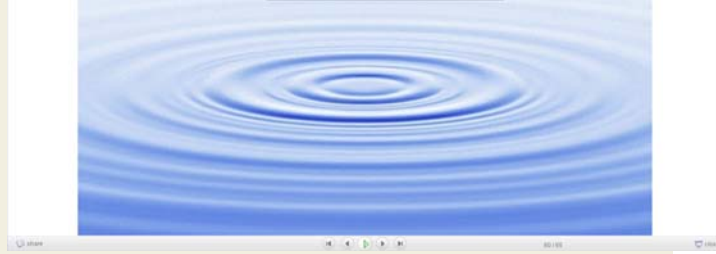
This back-to-school newsletter features activities and For something completely different, mark your calendars for events in October and check out some beautiful water presentations available online [Keep us posted](#) on what you're up to. We would love to hear from you.

## Why Water?

### [Thirst](#)

**It's time to give water  
a second thought.**

Visit slideshare for an amazing presentation on water entitled "[Thirst](#)" by Jeff Brennan of Apollo Ideas with content by [www.apolloideas.com/thirst](http://www.apolloideas.com/thirst).



It's an engaging look at why water matters and why water shortages should matter to us all. The visuals are strong and the messages simple, but effective. Check it out.

## Do It Yourself

### Natural Toothpaste



The David Suzuki Foundation's Spring 2009 newsletter, [Finding Solutions](#), published this homemade recipe for toothpaste. Try it out with your students and test it against storebought brands:

Mix into a paste:

- 3 tbsp baking soda
- 1/2 tsp table salt
- 1 tbsp vegetable glycerine
- 10-15 drops essential oil (for example, peppermint or cinnamon)

Store the toothpaste at room temperate in a covered container. It may need to be mixed before brushing.

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## What's on in October



24 October 2009

INTERNATIONAL DAY OF CLIMATE ACTION

What does 350 stand for? This group is hoping to convince governments and people to take actions that will cut back CO2 emissions to 350 ppm, the upper number that scientists have deemed as safe for our atmosphere. Sign up at [www.350.org](http://www.350.org) to join this global movement to solve the climate crisis. There are suggestions for actions on the 24th of October as well as resources.





# Planet in Focus International Environmental Film Festival 2009

[Planet in Focus](#), is celebrating its 10th year of recognizing the best in environmental films. Held in Toronto, from October 21-25, over 100 films, documentaries and shorts will be featured, with an expected 10,000 patrons. Screenings are followed by discussions with the filmmakers, programmers and environmental experts.

There is even a [curriculum-based school program](#), from Oct 20—22nd. The Ontario Teachers Federation, Me to We, and EcoSchools all support this event. Tickets are \$4.00 per student (Teachers/supervisors enjoy complimentary admission) and shows are 10:00 am and 1:00pm.

Location: Royal Ontario Museum, 100 Queen's Park Toronto, ON, M5S 2C6

For more information or to purchase tickets contact Myan Marcen-Gaudaur, [myan@planetinfocus.org](mailto:myan@planetinfocus.org) or 416 531 4689

## International Walk to School Month

International Walk to School Month reduces traffic congestion, encourages healthy habits and turns communities into vibrant, safe places to walk. Encourage your students to [join in](#). Countries all around the world are doing their bit:

In England, which hosts its own Walk to School month in May, the charity Living Streets has introduced a WOW program—Walk Once a Week, Walk on Wednesdays.

New Zealand has the right idea—they have participated as an iwalk country since 2000, and have now implemented a [Feet First Walk to School Every Week](#) program, with the goal of getting primary school students to walk to school every day.



Walk to School Every Week

la Wiki Hikoī Ki Te Kura

Source: <http://www.feetfirst.govt.nz/>

## H<sub>2</sub>O University



Check out the [Science water lesson](#) plans at Southern Nevada Water Authority's H<sub>2</sub>O University, for Grades K-2 and for Grades 3-5. There is also a library and Parent/Teacher Lounge. The History and geography portions are devoted to Southern Nevada so you can skip that portion, but there are good sections of the website with fun facts and science lessons.

**EcoVoyageurs** is a series of free teaching resources based on the Ecological Footprint concept. All focus on our ability to live within the limits of the Earth's resources. Materials include the [intermediate print kit](#) (classroom posters and teachers' guide with lesson plans and student worksheets) and its companion [Web site; Count Yourself In](#) (a Web-based tracking tool that provides actionable steps for individuals and communities to reduce their impact of the environment) and EcoVoyageurs [Junior](#) (downloadable lesson plans, power points and graphics, supported with student activities and worksheets).

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