

# ***WE SHOULD NOT BE SELLING PLASTIC BOTTLES IN THE CAFETERIA***

Have you drank from a plastic bottle lately, it sure is a convenient way to get water but think about the costs and i don't mean money. I strongly believe that we should stop selling plastic bottles in the cafeteria, they can be harmful towards the students that buy them. Selling bottles made from single use plastic is dreadful. It harms animals because they see it as food, it harms humans with the chemicals in it. We should not sell plastic because we are an eco school which means we help the environment and try our best not to hurt it. I will show you why we should stop selling plastic bottles

One reason that we should not be selling plastic is because it is not biodegradable. That means unlike a banana peel which can be naturally disposed of as in you can throw it on dirt and bugs and bacteria will decompose it. Plastic is not that, plastic is made of petrol. You may say that we can burn the plastic however that releases dangerous dioxins into the atmosphere. This made me want to find out the scientific reason why plastic is not biodegradable so I did some research. According to Natalie Wolchover via livescience "When heated up in the presence of a catalyst, individual chemical units monomers of propylene link together by forming extremely strong carbon-carbon bonds". These bonds can not be broken down by nature because nature doesn't know how. According to Kenneth Peters a organic geologist and Stanford University "nature doesn't make things like that so organic creatures can't break it down". The worst thing about this is we can't dispose of plastic without harming something which is why we should stop using it. According to the Animals and Environment papers "there will be more plastic in the ocean than fish by about 2050". If we are producing so much plastic so quickly this might

mean that by 2051 there won't be any fish. In other words we are destroying marine life, why? Just because we don't have the energy to go to a tap to drink.

Secondly, We have worked to become an eco school, how have we worked (what have we done) you ask? Well we stopped using a lot of plastic, we stopped using any plastic that is not reusable. So if we worked hard on getting the flag by not using plastic bottles than why are we still selling them? An eco school flag is earned if the school is eco which means we recycle and stop using things that are harmful towards the environment and to humans. According to the ecoschools one of the criteria to be an eco school to is "Refuse to buy products you don't need" and we don't need to buy plastic bottles since we have a great alternative, taps.

Another reason to stop is because plastic bottles contain harmful chemicals which can affect people in bad ways. Plastic has many harmful chemicals (PCP, DDT, PAH) but the most harmful one is BPA. These chemicals can result in Breast cancer, lower age puberty, diabetes, infertility, impaired learning and even brain damage. See the list goes on and on. Some people may say that we can use reusable plastic bottles but even they contain a chemical called BPAH, which according to greenpeace "is as bad as BPA". This has made me think more about whether or not it is worth making plastic bottles if they are this dangerous to humans. According to LiveScience "Plastic can allow bacteria to accumulate" which will increase chances in being sick, and According to the Plastic Pollution Coalition "Plastic contains DHEA which can be carcinogenic and may lead to a loss of bone mass and liver problems. Plastic can't be burned without harming anyone because it releases dioxins which are harmful. So is plastic really worth all these problems?

**In conclusion our three reasons are health concerns, the fact that we are an eco school and should not be selling them according to the criteria and it harms the environment. Imagine a world with seas full of garbage, with people getting sick all the time. Do you think plastic bottles are worth all these problems? I strongly recommend anyone reading this to write a letter to the manager of the cafeteria asking him to stop selling single use plastic bottles.**

**Sources:BBC, Greenpeace, LiveScience, MindBodyGreen**