

Coach gets middle-schoolers excited about ‘green’ cleaning

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Courtesy photo
Green Cleaning coach Leslie Reichert, center, poses with Marblehead Community Charter Public School seventh-grade teacher Maria McAuliffe and students, from left, Anya Peterson, Grace Haley and Sam Ross.

Marblehead —On April 13, seventh- and eighth-graders at Marblehead Community Charter Public School received a science lesson in green cleaning with the author of “Joy of Green Cleaning,” and Green Cleaning coach Leslie Reichert (thejoyofgreencleaning.com).

Reichert, in association with Green 4 My School, visited MCCPS after students had raised awareness and hundreds of dollars for their outdoor classroom with E-cloth, an alternative type of cleaner created using the latest technology.

During Reichert’s class, students learned about natural cleaning recipes that can be made from pantry items, the history of cleaning, dangers of chemicals to human health and the environment, and new technologies that make for more eco-friendly cleaning products. Students then created an environmentally friendly and effective cleaning scrub using salt and lemon juice. Each student received a sample to take home to show his or her family how to “clean green.”

Students were quite enthusiastic about the presentation and, according to student Grace Haley, “Kids got the message that cleaning can fun, and we are doing something good helping the environment.”

Seventh-grader Madison Ballou added, “We learned we should use natural things... If you can eat it, it’s safe and that is why we should use lemon, vinegar, baking soda, etc. for cleaning.”

Anya Peterson believes that there should be “a science lesson like this for adults because they need to know the dangers of chemicals that are poison but are used everyday in cleaning products.”

Reichert said she has seen firsthand scores of parents who fight a daily battle with asthma and allergies, which many believe are caused by using toxic chemicals in the home. Three years ago, she realized she wanted to share her knowledge and encourage people in the “art” of home keeping and green cleaning, and since then she has become a coach, a presenter and a speaker for the green-cleaning industry and Green 4 My School.



Green Cleaning coach Leslie Reichert instructs seventh-grade students Anya Peterson, Grace Haley and Madison