

# Frankly Frankie

## Study Hall Do's and Don'ts



Do not be afraid of study hall teachers. However, study hall teachers do want students to dishonor their authority. So keeping that in mind, do not be rude or disobey their rules, no matter how strange or ridiculous they might sound. Although sometimes they come across as if they want to ruin students' lives by making them be quiet or giving out assigned seats, this is most likely not the case.

They need to know where you are at all times so that if they must find you, they can in a short amount of time, especially in the event of an emergency. It may appear as if they are intentionally

insulting your age level, but their hawk-like vigilance is meant to keep you safe. Remember, they are held responsible for your well-being during those 45 minutes, so give them a break and follow the sign out/take pass protocol. Also, many study hall teachers will let you leave for any decent reason as long as you are upfront about it and ask politely. They have to let you go if you get a pass from another administrator. So if you loathe the study hall, get passes to the library or another classroom. There is no reason to be disrespectful to teachers, and it will only get you in trouble if you get caught skipping, even just a study hall.

Some teachers prefer silent study halls to accommodate the students who do actually want to accomplish something

productive, not just for their own selfish desire for peace and quiet. If it is any consolation to the slackers out there, it makes for the perfect sleeping environment as well. Take a nap and stop complaining. In addition, if you frequently whine about not having enough time to complete homework and do nothing in study hall, there is no excuse. Use the time you do have, even if it is limited!

Everyone likes to have the opportunity to talk with their friends, but there are always other times to do so. Another important thing to consider is that a lot of study hall teachers do or can be coerced into allowing muted conversations. Again, if you ask for a privilege such as this nicely, you are more likely to get what you want. Then if you do not take advantage of it when it is given, it might be offered again. As shocking as this might be, it is not as painful to be mature as many students think, so give it a shot.

## G.E.O. CLUB

by Curt McConnell

### Making the Switch

G.E.O. Club President, Curt McConnell has offered to write articles for the Trumpet, featuring the ideals of the G.E.O. Club and "Going Green."

Throughout the past decade, "going green" has developed into an ongoing and popular trend. Not only is it popular, but making the switch to being green is essential to protecting the world we live in. Many have begun this environmental switch. Even large corporate companies like Wal-Mart are changing environmental policies to fall in stride with the green trend. This greatly benefits the environment, but the most help can come from the average person. To help, people can do very simple but effective things, like switching the cleaning products they use around the house.

There is a myriad of different green cleaning products on the market, which are used for many different purposes. There are bathroom cleaners, dish liquids, laundry detergents, and all purpose cleaners. The current issue is that not many people are making this simple switch. The green cleaning products are just as good, if not better than the standard chemical cleaner. A couple of the most famous companies are Seventh Generation and Ecover. Other companies do not sell all green products still strive to produce and advertise them, like Clorox's Green Works cleaners.

The Green Works all purpose cleaner is a very popular, affordable, and effective item. One critic described it as being "a bit more watery than my usual cleaners but it smelled good and worked as well as leading brands". It is safe to use on most household surfaces to help remove grease, dirt, and other messes. It works, but what allows it to be green and work at the same time? It is environmentally friendly due to its biodegradable and natural ingredients, which are contained in a 100% recycled and recyclable bottle. The ingredients are clearly labeled on the bottle of the product unlike many chemically based products. Some of the main ingredients include distilled water and a coconut-based cleaning agent (alkyl polyglucoside). This cleaning agent dissolves dirt while the water washes it away. The absorption of dirt and washing away of dirt is a standard reaction amongst all cleaning products, but most don't have the safe and biodegradable ingredients that Green Works does.

Most chemically based cleaning products, when applied, give off harmful fumes that can cause health problems to pets and humans. Green Works does not give off any harmful fumes that are harmful to

the environment or to people. This is why this product has been approved by the Environmental Protection Agency (E.P.A) and is recognized for its safer chemistry.

All Seventh Generation products are designed to help preserve the environment for future generation. They make this possible by engineering products fit for environmental standards.

The Seventh Generation dish liquid shares the same aspects as the Green Works product does. The liquid is in a recycled bottle and is safe to the environment and to the people using it. Like Green Works, it gives off no harmful chemical fumes but still is effective in removing grease and grime from dishes. Seventh Generation does not use petroleum in their products, so if every household in the U.S switched their dish liquids to Seventh Generation, 129,000 barrels of oil would be saved.

I bought and tested both Green Works products and Seventh Generation products. I used the all purpose Green Works cleaner and Seventh Generation dish liquid. Both performed exceptionally well. I compared the regular Clorox brand cleaning product and the Green Works cleaning product to cleaning dirt and kitchen stains and the results were very similar. The question is: If they are so similar, why use the green one? The main reason is the ingredients contained in the Green Works are not harmful to people or the environment. Also the Green Works leaves behind a pleasant and natural smell behind, which many associate with cleanliness, while a regular cleaning product leaves an artificial and chemical smell behind.

These products seem perfect but questions arise about their price and availability. Generally the price of a green product is similarly priced to its counterpart. In most stores, Clorox sells its cheapest 32oz cleaner/degreaser for \$3.84 while its Green Works product is \$3.49. A 25oz bottle of Seventh Generation dish liquid goes for about \$3.69 while Dawn sells its dish soap for \$5.49. This disproves the myth that environmentally friendly products are overpriced! Both of these products can be purchased almost anywhere at stores like Target, Giant, Wal-Mart, or anywhere else cleaning products are distributed. Clearly making a simple transition to green cleaning products is simple, effective, healthy, and affordable!

### Go Green with Paper

Paper products are very essential to every day life, but they are taken for granted. The amount of trees that are cut each year just for paper is extraordinary. The world is cutting millions of trees down and using about 300 million tons of paper every year! This is detrimental for the environment and for us.

Thankfully, we are now starting to take

better care of the environment and recycling has become more popular. About 110 million tons of paper that is used is recycled to make more paper. These steps help the environment a tremendous amount but it is still not enough. More trees are being cut down than grown.

Despite the depleting forests, it is never too late change our ways. Currently many alternatives are being derived for paper products. For example, Kenaf, a plant indigenous to central Africa, can be used to create paper. This plant grows at accelerated rates, growing 12-18 feet in just a few months. This can be easily harvested and colored to make loose leaf and printing paper. One of the better ways to halt the destruction of any plant or tree is to just use recycled paper products.

There is a wide range of recycled paper products, from paper towels to napkins to toilet paper. Many companies distribute these recycled paper products. Name brands like Scott are even producing recycled products. They produce a toilet paper as well as paper towels. Customer reviews on the products vary greatly. Many think the paper is too thin and not worth the purchase, but many still believe it works and is worth it to save the environment. If one is unhappy with the product there are many other green companies to switch to. An alternative is Seventh Generation, who produces many products, like paper towels. These towels are 100% recycled and prevents waste by making it possible to tear off any size sheet, unlike regular paper towels. The towels perform but are also inexpensive. A two pack of Seventh Generation goes for about \$4.99 while Bounty is about \$6.49. These products can be purchased almost anywhere, and are distributed locally to stores like Weis, Giant, and K-Mart.

Recycled paper is great but some of the best ways to keep clean but go green are just keeping it old fashioned. It would save millions of trees to just change from paper napkins and towels to regular cloth and rags. Reusing one rag to clean spills is a much more efficient and environmentally friendly alternative to paper towels. Also just reusing cloth napkins is great. All it needs is to be thrown in the wash when it is dirty. This way you can go green without spending too much green.

Schools are the leading consumers of paper products. A school with 60 teachers is said to use about 900,000 sheets of paper a year! A way to make up for this is to go tech and use computers to take tests, turn in, and grade papers. Teachers are encouraged to use programs like turnitin.com so the written papers don't need to be printed. If your teacher has notes online, be sure to print them out double-sided and possibly even with 2 or 4 pages of notes per side of paper. Remember using less paper is even better than using recycled!

## The A-Wing is revealed

by Erica Shartle

For many students at Parkland High School, the A-wing is unfamiliar territory. Many get lost on their way to A-wing study halls for the first time or wonder where they are going - even the hall monitors rarely venture down there. However, to others, the A-wing is their second home.

The students involved in band, orchestra, chorus, cooking, interior design, arts and theater, including stage crew, can most likely be found in this uncharted territory sometimes more often than at home.

Many activities go on in this area of the school of which most students are not aware. For instance, the marching band routinely plays in competitions. The serenade strolling strings play at lunches and dinners for various organizations almost every week, and the choral perform in concerts frequently. However, most students do know about the plays and musicals that the theater department put on twice a year.

Most members of the A-wing have affectionate feelings about this particular wing of the school. "I feel it is an open place where creativity soars. There are lots of opportunities whether you play an instrument, have a dream to be on stage or would rather spend your time screwing nails into balsa wood, there is a place for you," said junior Molly Weinberg. While others, just enjoy the A-wing in general.

Others feel that the A-wing is a place where one can be whoever they would like. "It is a place to express yourself without feeling self conscious," said junior Michelle Trinh. The majority of students who frequent this side of the building also feel this way about this area since so much time is spent in these rooms, most of the students form close relationships with the teachers who help them realize their dreams.

Many students might wonder what exactly is down in the A-wing. It is the place where all the art is located. Whether it is making music, putting on a show, making a drawing or sewing pillows, one can find it in the A-wing. "It is a great place for a variety of things. So if you are interested in any form of art, there is probably something in the A-wing you can do," said junior Katie Hickes. This is all too accurate; there truly is something for anyone interested in the arts.

Anyone who has had a class in the A-wing will tell you that they enjoyed their experience there. "The A-wing is a place where I can frolic in the joyfulness of music," said junior Matt Shoemaker. Next time there is nothing to do, try and venture down to enjoy the sounds of the A-wing.