

# Planet Great Neck



April 2009, SPRING EDITION

## FACTS ABOUT BOTTLED WATER

By Dahlia Klein, PTA parent of 7<sup>th</sup> grader

As the weather warms up, and as our students gear up for outdoor sports, we see more plastic water bottles pop up by their side. Before you send your kid off with a plastic water bottle, here are important facts you should know about the plastic bottle industry.

- ◆ In 2006, Americans drank about 167 bottles of water each but only recycled an average of 23 percent. That leaves 38 billion water bottles in landfills. In other words, Eight out of 10 plastic water bottles become landfill waste.
- ◆ Bottled water costs between \$1 and \$4 per gallon, and 90 percent of the cost is in the bottle, lid and label.
- ◆ About 40% of bottled water is just filtered tap water.
- ◆ Never reuse a plastic bottle-- they can leach chemicals such as DEHA, a known carcinogen, and benzyl butyl phthalate (BBP), especially after the bottle has been exposed to heat.
- ◆ The manufacturing process of creating bottled water created more than 2.5 million tons of carbon dioxide.
- ◆ According to the Beverage Marketing Corp, the average American consumed 1.6 gallons of bottled water in 1976. In 2006 that number jumped to 28.3 gallons.
- ◆ It takes over 1.5 million barrels of oil to manufacture a year's supply of bottled water. That's enough oil to fuel 100,000 cars.
- ◆ Plastic bottles take 700 years before they begin to decompose in a landfill.
- ◆ If everyone in NYC gave up water bottles for one week, they would save 24 million bottles from being landfilled. One month on the same plan would save 112 million bottles, and one year would save 1.328 billion bottles from going into the landfill.
- ◆ It also takes more than three liters of water to create one liter of bottled water.

**Instead use stainless steel reusable bottles that can be bought at any health food store like WholeFoods. Purchase a home filtration system for your faucet available at any Home Depot or Lowes and fill up the bottle to go.**