



## **ZERO Waste Lunch Challenge**

Willard School holds a **Waste-Free Lunch Challenge** to celebrate **Earth Week**. We try to continue this throughout the school year, as much as possible. During Waste-Free Lunch Days, students will be asked to bring lunches that include as many items as possible that can be eaten, reused, recycled, or composted and as few items as possible that must be thrown away. [A typical student bringing a disposable lunch to school each day creates an average of 67 pounds of lunch waste annually.]

You can help your child pack his or her waste-free lunch by including only what your student can eat, using reusable containers or bags, or buying non-perishable foods in bulk. In planning your child's waste-free lunch, remember: if you pack any items that need refrigeration make sure you include a reusable ice pack to keep the items fresh.

### **Waste-Free Lunch Tips:**

#### **Include:**

- Sandwiches in reusable containers.
- Whole fruits without packaging.
- Drinks in containers that can be reused, such as a thermos, or recycled, such as a can.
- Snacks purchased in bulk & brought in reusable containers.
- Reusable ice packs.

#### **Don't Include:**

- Individually wrapped snacks
- Plastic baggies that are not reusable
- Disposable forks and spoons
- Straws

Willard students and staff have been doing a tremendous job reducing, reusing and recycling! Soon they will be able to compost the organic materials from their lunches. Our last year's fundraiser sold enough Wrap-N-Mats and Snack Taxis to purchase a school compost tumbler. We will not be selling them again this year, but you can make reusable lunch items yourself, or purchase them locally at:

Green Home Experts [www.ghexperts.com](http://www.ghexperts.com) located at 823 S. Oak Park Avenue, Oak Park  
[www.ReusableBags.com](http://www.ReusableBags.com) (Chicago-based company)  
[www.Etsy.com](http://www.Etsy.com) (All handmade Items from American crafters)

Thank you! If you have any questions about the Waste-Free Lunch Days, please contact Keary Cragan, [kecragan@msn.com](mailto:kecragan@msn.com), or Julie Moller, [jmoller@marketingwerks.com](mailto:jmoller@marketingwerks.com), Co-Chairs of the Willard PTO Environmental, Health, & Safety Committee.