



Simply Green

Live Well, Tread Gently

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Do you consider yourself a shocking chartreuse? A softer celadon, perhaps? Maybe you started out last year as a deep, rich forest, and have now settled back into a beautiful fern . . .

Whatever your shade may be at the moment (and it fluctuates for most of us), the most important goal is to be as green as you can without falling into the eco-guilt trap — you know, like when you go to the supermarket and forget your shopping totes at home, only to bump into your greener-than-thou neighbor on line at checkout; or when you can't find your reusable stainless steel bottle, and break down and buy a Poland Spring at the gym just as your Planet Manhasset friend walks by?

We at PM are here to say: it's OK. Nobody's perfect. We all fade into a washed-out moss from time to time. Let's try to take the guilt out of being green as we continue to share our ideas and all try our best to move forward.

As a school community, we have already made great strides in just one year. A peek in any elementary school classroom will reveal desks delightfully dotted with reusable bottles and snack sacks; any school parent can attest to the reduction in paper notices and the terrific efficiency of our email system; recycling was in place for almost all special events last school year and will soon be launched permanently in all schools; in the middle and high schools, a program of environmental speakers will continue, and a green club will soon begin; a second annual Christmas tree recycling day is being planned; and there is a wonderful, palpable, overall eco-consciousness in everything we do.

So, instead of feeling inadequate, or ashamed that we are not perfectly green in every aspect of our lives, let's be proud of our many accomplishments. There is a rainbow of wonderful, vivid, vibrant shades of green; let's strive for the emerald, but celebrate each new hue that we achieve along the way. Remember, little steps, all in the right direction.

For more information on Planet Manhasset or any SCA committee/event, please visit
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