

BOOMERANG LUNCH



A **boomerang** is a curved piece of wood that when properly thrown will return to the thrower. (<http://wordnetweb.princeton.edu/perl/webwn?s=boomerang>)

A **boomerang lunch** is a lunch that has every piece of it return to its source.

In other words, everything in the lunch goes back home at the end of the day. No matter if it is leftover food, containers, recyclables or garbage, it all goes back. **Yes, even the garbage.**

Purpose: To increase awareness of the amount of waste created in one day's lunch

To encourage the use of reusable containers

To discourage the use of disposable containers

Consider having a Boomerang Lunch in your class!

Procedure:

1. Send a letter home to parents regarding the upcoming Boomerang Lunch, with exact date (see attached example).
2. Explain to students the purpose of the Boomerang Lunch.
3. Have the Boomerang Lunch.
 - You may want to remove garbage containers from the room during the lunch
 - You may choose to turn the containers upside down and place a reminder note on them
 - You may want to ask students what should be done with the garbage cans, to remove any "temptations".

There are classes and schools in the province that do not collect any lunch garbage from students. There are also field trip centres that do not collect any garbage at all from visiting classes. In these areas it is common practice that everyone take out what they bring in. It is a process that may take some adjustment, but is very feasible. (See some stories in the resources below)

Extras:

If your one-time Boomerang Lunch is a success, you may consider another. Try to increase the frequency of the lunches as they become more popular. Once students and parents become familiar with the process, it may become more of a habit to bring lunches with less waste.

Also consider some waste reduction activities to use in class, to encourage students to not only take their lunch garbage home with them, but also attempt to reduce their production of garbage, at lunch and throughout the rest of the day.

Some Resources:

Ontario document "Ready Set Green! – Tips, Techniques, and Resources from Ontario Educators" (2001) (page 37 #28) Morrish Public School of the Toronto District School Board suggested the Boomerang Lunch.

<http://www.edu.gov.on.ca/eng/document/policy/environment.html>

Ontario EcoSchools Waste Free Lunch Ideas www.wastefreelunch.com includes sample letters to send home, including tips for making waste free lunches.

Ottawa Catholic School Board <http://www.ocdsb.on.ca/announce.php?annon=7141> article about school participating in Boomerang Lunch

The Star. <http://www.thestar.com/article/248434> article on schools participating in Boomerang and Waste Free Lunches.

