



PACT E-News

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Questions about PACT? Please e-mail Susie Merrick (merrick@champlain.edu) or Steve Loyer (sloyer@tgvt.net).

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Thursday, Nov. 19, 5:30-7:30, Rick Marcotte Central School, is our next Potluck! The Top Cats will join us.

Our World by Avni Nahar

(Grade 9, South Burlington High School)

It's 2009, and our world is growing incredibly fast. Every day, we make new developments in science and technology that help us do better things: cure diseases, fight wars, visit outer space. Recently, we have started to realize the toll these advancements have taken on our world.

The gases leaked into our atmosphere from factories around the Earth have broken down our ozone layer. This ozone layer is what protects us from the sun's harmful rays, and without it, our glaciers are melting. This causes sea levels to rise, which in its turn produces many things: habitat loss, flooding, natural disasters, and changes in ocean circulation. The carbon dioxide and other gases in the atmosphere will cause our earth to heat up, and although everyone likes the summer, this isn't a good thing.

In the long term, our Earth could become a wasteland in 200 years. Can you imagine? Trees gone, oceans brown, no animals in sight. Walking around with oxygen masks strapped to your face, with temperatures always hot. Tsunamis and tornadoes at every turn, Level 5 hurricanes on a daily basis...it wouldn't be Earth anymore.

To stop this catastrophe, we need to take action now. We need to recycle, invest in alternative power, plant trees, drive less, turn off the heat – simple things that don't take much effort.

For our planet, I think it's worth it.

PACT Board Member and Hometown Hero Karen Krupa Shares Her Voice

The work I do, especially the prevention work, is important to me because it impacts the community in a positive way. Although results of my efforts are not seen overnight, I know that they are beneficial in the long run.

It is also important to me to be the voice of my peers who are too afraid to speak up for whatever reason. I think many teens are afraid to stand up to this type of behavior because they feel the need to be "cool", and going against drinking can seem uncool. By spreading my message, I can be a voice for all teenagers and show them that you can be cool without engaging in risky behaviors.

In the next five years, I see myself completing my degree, becoming a high school English teacher, and continuing to pass on the message of smart decisions to my students. I hope that I can pass along this message for the rest of my life, to all my current peers, future students, future children, and every teenager that I cross paths with.

I find balance to allow myself to give back to the community by making time to give back. If I make time, I know it will happen. It is as simple as that.

A version of this article originally appeared in The Other Paper.