

Desjardins NaturLogic Contest



2011-2012 Edition

Teacher's Guide

June 2011

***LA CAISSE
SCOLAIRE***

 **Desjardins**

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FOREWORD

Your Desjardins caisse and Melody Penny the Bee, our school caisse ambassador, are presenting the “Desjardins NaturLogic” contest for the eighth consecutive year.

As you already know, the educational concept of the school caisse was created more than 100 years ago by Alphonse Desjardins, founder of the caisses. Today, 1,075 schools in Québec and Ontario, in collaboration with their local Desjardins caisse, have implemented the school caisse to teach young people the value of saving their money.

Beyond this mission of savings education, the school caisse, along with its ambassador Melody Penny, have another role. Their task is to promote the values of cooperation, which are:

- individual and collective self-help and responsibility
- democracy
- equality
- equity
- solidarity

These are the same values held by the school community.

In order to create a lasting feeling of belonging to their school and their community among students, the school caisse aims to offer a way to practice the values of cooperation and perceive the concrete results of their collective efforts in their school. That's the cooperative difference!

And that is the challenge launched by Melody Penny the Bee, with her “Desjardins NaturLogic” contest!

CONTEST OBJECTIVES

- To help young people become familiar with the fundamental values of cooperation and experience concrete situations related to those same values.
- To support the school's educational objectives.
- To stimulate students' active participation in their school and community.

We should add that this contest rewards the class and teachers as a group, as opposed to individual students.

The chosen area of development: ecology.

Every school year, a new theme based on ecology is proposed to the schools.

WHAT IS ECOLOGY?

Every individual has a duty to help protect natural resources. Human beings, animals, insects, birds, plants, and all forms of life have their essential role to play in the environment. To maintain the balance of life on our planet, we need to understand the interrelations among the different living beings that make up this marvellous yet fragile system.

Young students today are made increasingly aware by the schools of the ecological aspects of the various living systems and how each one is essential to protecting the environment. They are given every opportunity to study and understand the various ecosystems and are encouraged to recommend actions to preserve the planet for future generations.

WHY DID DESJARDINS CHOOSE THIS SUBJECT?

The purpose of the study of ecology is to understand the environment and adopt responsible attitudes to preserve it and ensure balanced and sustainable development. Reflecting on these topics gives students a hands-on opportunity to learn about the above-mentioned values, such as taking charge and personal and mutual responsibility as well as solidarity.

Environmental protection is also a concern that is among Desjardins Group's priorities. Promoting the environment in our society and supporting the artisans of sustainable development are ways for us to put into practice the educational aspect of Desjardins Group's mission, starting with the youngest among us.

THEME

The theme proposed for the 2011-2012 contest is: **Cooperating to build a greener environment!**

Our society is increasingly concerned about the environment. Water, air, earth and fire are the four elements that make up the world in which many creatures, including humans, call home. Our planet needs us to take care of it, now more than ever, so our descendants can continue enjoying it. Every step we make to reduce our ecological footprint is a step to save the planet and a sign of our respect for the environment.

Being aware of our impacts, what are some examples of simple and concrete measures that each one of us can take to protect nature?

Young people can answer the question... in the "Desjardins NaturLogic" contest!

Real generosity toward the future lies in giving all to the present.
– Albert Camus

SUGGESTIONS FOR INFORMATIVE SITES

www.mddep.gouv.qc.ca/jeunesse (available in French only)

www.justeungeste.com (available in French only)

<http://www.education.mrnf.gouv.qc.ca/index.asp> (available in French only)

www.simplegreenaction.ca

etc.

ACTIVITIES

In each participating class, students will be asked to carry out a group project based on ecology, with the theme of **Cooperating to build a greener environment!** The project can be any of numerous different things, such as: organize a conference, make a video, design a game, set up a kiosk, create an ad campaign, present a play, design a web page, etc.

Group projects that follow the theme and the instructions will be examined by the jury.

SUGGESTED APPROACH FOR PARTICIPATING SCHOOLS AND TEACHERS

1. Brainstorm on the theme of the environment and actions to take, and come up with project suggestions.
2. Hold a group session on the values of cooperation to practice when designing and carrying out the project.
3. Get a consensus on the kind of project to be carried out.
4. Assign jobs and responsibilities among students.
5. Project development and implementation.

CONTEST RULES

Desjardins NaturLogic Contest – 2011-2012 Edition



1. Length of contest

The contest is organized by the Fédération des caisses Desjardins du Québec (FCDQ). It takes place from September 6, 2011 to March 23, 2012.

2. Eligibility

The contest is aimed exclusively at elementary schools in Quebec and Ontario that offer the School Caisse educational program. Participation will be verified before winners are officially announced.

All pupils of these schools may take part in a project, whether or not they are members of the School Caisse.

3. Description of prizes

Thirty-two (32) prizes worth a total of \$6,900 will be awarded in May 2012, including:

- Fifteen (15) cash prizes of \$300, earmarked for a class outing or end-of-year activity, are divided as follows:
 - Five (5) prizes awarded among projects submitted by kindergarten, and Grade 1 and 2 classes
 - Five (5) prizes awarded among projects submitted by Grade 3 and 4 classes
 - Five (5) prizes awarded among projects submitted by Grade 5 and 6 classes (and Grade 7 classes for Ontario schools)
- One (1) grand cash prize of \$600 for the Jury's Favourite prize award for a class outing, selected from among the 15 winning projects

Please note that:

- a class cannot win more than one prize, except for the Jury's Favourite prize
- the teacher responsible for the winning project gets to choose the class outing awarded

"Super Teacher" awards

- Fifteen (15) restaurant package prizes worth \$100 each awarded to the teachers responsible for the 15 winning projects (choice of restaurants)
- One vacation package worth \$300 awarded to the teacher responsible for the Jury's Favourite prize selected among the 15 winning projects (choice of vacation packages)

4. How can you participate?

The teacher may sign up the class using the **Pre-registration Form**¹ and send it to the FCDQ before December 9, 2011. You can get the form from the person in charge of the School Caisse at your neighbourhood Desjardins caisse.

The teacher must then supervise the accomplishment of a class project of an ecological nature, whose theme is **Cooperating to build a greener environment!** In addition to putting into practice the values of cooperation, the project must have a significant impact on the life of the school and its community, or both.

¹ This form is not a prerequisite for participation in the contest.

It is then up to the teacher to complete the Project Summary registration form in which the project undertaken is described. To be valid, the form must be mailed to the Fédération des caisses Desjardins du Québec, 100 rue des Commandeurs, Lévis, Quebec, G6V 7N5 (Attention: Marcelle Morin) and postmarked no later than March 23, 2012, or submitted in person no later than March 26, 2012, failing which the entry will be null and void. Additional documents² (photographs, CD-ROMs, samples, video, etc.) may, if deemed helpful in understanding the project, be appended to this form. Please note that no document will be returned to the participating schools.

The projects submitted must have been accomplished between September 6, 2011 and March 23, 2012.

5. Determination of winners

Winners will be chosen by a jury.

The jury is the only body responsible for the selection criteria of the winning classes, as each member awards a grade to the projects in competition according to the following criteria:

- a) The demonstration of putting cooperative values into practice: individual and collective self-help and responsibility, democracy, equality, equity and solidarity
- b) Incorporation of the theme: **Cooperating to build a greener environment!**
- c) The originality and innovation of the project
- d) The significance of accomplishments on the school's group experience or its community
- e) The quality of the presentation

The jury has the power to rule on cases not provided for in the regulations. Its decisions are final and without appeal.

Those in charge of the School Caisse in Desjardins caisses will:

- inform the teachers of the winning classes by telephone
- be faxed the list of restaurant packages for winning teachers
- have to inform the FCDQ of the winners' restaurant choices

before April 27, 2012

Both parties (caisse and school) will agree together on the way in which prizes will be presented, which must take place prior to May 11, 2012.

6. General

Prizes must be accepted as awarded and cannot be exchanged, substituted for another prize or transferred to another person. The contest organizers' decision is final and without appeal. All winning persons release the contest organizers from any liability in terms of any damage that could arise from accepting and using their prize. To be declared winners, participants must sign a declaration and waiver form, if required by the FCDQ.

The amounts paid out as class prizes shall be used only for a class outing or activity for the winning class.

By participating in this contest, all winning persons authorize the organizers to post their name on the Desjardins website www.desjardins.com/teachers.

The winners agree that to the FCDQ, the Fédération des caisses populaires de l'Ontario Inc. as well as their member caisses or any other Desjardins Group entity may use their name for promotional purposes without additional compensation.

The persons participating in this contest acknowledge they have read the contest rules and agree to comply with them.

The FCDQ reserves the right to terminate the contest if events beyond its control prevent it from continuing. In such case, it shall assume no liability for the discontinuation.

² Total shipment should not exceed 24" X 24" X 24".