

# CANADA IS CONSTANTLY SEEKING WAYS TO RECYCLE

**What do YOU do with your pen when it runs out of ink?**



Do you vigorously scribble to get it going, check the ink level, blow into it? How about shake it, dip it in water or coffee if handy? Lastly, if all of your tricks don't work, with frustration do you throw it away and replace it with a new one? Oh yeah, we have all done it!

But is the garbage the only place for your dry pen?

The Kumon Vancouver Branch Office was approached by Instructor Louisa, who asked if we would support her environmentally passionate assistants. The assistants were determined to make a change in the world by educating and promoting recycling through a project they created, called S.A.V.E (Sustaining And Valuing the Environment). They initiated this project after learning that the recycled pens had potential to be upcycled to benches and playground equipment. The assistants were on a mission to distribute boxes in schools to collect stationeries such as pens, markers, and highlighters. They knew the Kumon Centres used a lot of writing tools, *especially the red pens*.



The assistants involved proceeded with care, because as we all know, our Instructors are always very busy. We presented this program to the Instructors at an Instructor Monthly Meeting followed by newsletter promotions. To our delight, the Instructors were quite receptive to the program. To every IMM meeting, the Instructors would haul bags of dry pens that were then delivered to Staples.

Over 4 years, 15,000+ pens were collected, recycled, and diverted away from the ever-growing landfill.

Although the project has concluded, the message was impactful and long lasting. We learned that a small amount of effort can have a ripple effect to help keep our earth healthy. Let us do the write thing by recycling one pen at time!

Just like we learned about Staple's extensive recycling program, we encourage you to do some research and learn how you can contribute to improve our landfill crisis.