

Thank you so much for your help!

Thank you so much to all the kids and parents who have come out in support of our project. We are a "tobacco free school." This means that we are tobacco free on all parts of the school campus 7 days a week, 24 hours a day, 365 days a year. This includes when school is not in session and on weekends. This also includes our ball fields which the Waxhaw Athletic Association uses. You are not only helping the environment today, but you also sending a strong message to your children and your families that following laws are important and our health should be our number one concern.



Waxhaw Elementary Kid Corps
Kick Butts Clean Up Day

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Our Tobacco Free School Waxhaw Elementary



Waxhaw Elementary Kid Corps
Kick Butts Clean Up Day



"Parents supporting Parents"

Cigarette Litter is a HUGE Problem! Why?

Most people think that cigarette filters are made of cotton and will disintegrate immediately. The fact is, it is made of carcinogenic filled cellulose acetate fibers. That means plastic, which takes years to degrade. Not only that, once the fibers fall apart the carcinogen are released into the air for everyone to breathe. They are also bad for the environment because "tossed" cigarettes cause fires every year, resulting in people and wildlife dying. Many animals die just from mistaking the butts as a part of their food source. Cigarette butts appear to have not been thought of as trash for many years. Did you know that butts constitute the number one form of litter in America. On clean up days around the country, several TRILLION butts are collected annual in park, beaches, and your neighborhood.



What do I do when someone litters?

It is important to not pass judgment on the person. This will only elicit a confrontation. Instead, simply pick up the item that was discarded stating, "I'll get that for you, there is a trash can right over here. These cigarette butts are harmful to the environment and pose a fire hazard." You can also state that it is a Tobacco Free School at all times if they have questions.

Secondhand Smoke can KILL!

1,200-2,180 adults, children and babies will die each year from second hand smoke just in North Carolina. Secondhand smoke contains more than 69 carcinogens out of the 4000 chemicals found in cigarettes. Some of the chemicals include lead, arsenic, formaldehyde, benzene and radioactive polonium 210. The smoke has been scientifically proven to cause lung cancer, heart disease and other respiratory ailments. It is especially harmful to those who have asthma or other respiratory conditions. The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) ranks secondhand smoke in the same category as asbestos and radon.

Where to go for help?

American Lung Association
1-800-586-4872
www.lungusa.org

North Carolina Tobacco Use Quitline
1-800-QUIT-NOW

Kim Bayha, Health Educator
Union County Public Schools
Tobacco Prevention 704-283-3539

www.cigarettelitter.org

www.buttugly.org

www.tobaccofreekids.org

Remember your Parent Corps Parent Leader is ALWAYS here for support and guidance as well as information.

Please see contact information on back of brochure.