

## Talking Trash on the Big Screen

The Thrive Times

<http://nootka.vsb.bc.ca/thrive/>

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On Wednesday, April 23rd, THRIVE kids, staff and parents were invited to the new International Film Center in downtown Vancouver to see their video, Talking Trash, shown in a real movie theater! The audience of about 150 people included local political and business leaders, environmental activists and the media. This special event was organized by the Recycling Council of BC as part of their ongoing Zero Waste Challenge. It's goal was to bring together different groups to start talking about strategies for reducing our community's wastefulness.

The main event for the evening was the screening of filmmaker Andrew Nisker's award-winning new documentary, Garbage! The Revolution Starts At Home. Our film was presented as the teaser, just before Nisker's film! Talking Trash looked and sounded great on the big screen! It was especially nice to see Marvin Hunt (Chair of Metro Vancouver's Solid Waste Committee and a key person we interviewed for our film) also in attendance!

In brief, Nisker's film tells the story of a family WHO KEPT ALL THEIR GARBAGE for three months in order to learn the consequences of their way of life. It shows just how much trash a typical family generates -- and the effects that waste has on the Earth. Garbage! also explores other kinds of pollution, including how an act as simple as flipping a light switch can be linked to coal mining that is destroying huge areas of land and poisoning communities that were once thriving.

Commenting on the film in class the next day, one student said It makes me feel sad and disappointed to know people don't care. Wrote another If you could choose health or money, which would you choose? It looks like our society has already decided the answer is money. If every single person in the world has toxic materials in their body (as Nisker's film shows), what does that tell you?

At the end of the evening, the director of the RCBC asked the kids of THRIVE to stand and -- to enthusiastic applause from the whole crowd -- said "I don't think the results of the Kid Witness News Contest have been released yet, but ... this film's great!"

One of THRIVE's goals in creating Talking Trash was to highlight solutions, not just problems. We didn't want to leave people feeling hopeless! It was difficult to fit all we wanted to say into the 5 minute time limit demanded by the contest but we think that message comes through! Nisker's film, though, was meant to start a revolution! And so it's got us thinking that maybe there's another film out there for us to make, one about things real people like us do to make our world better!