

# Sustainable SQUAD

## OUR MISSION

We are four high school students from Eyüboğlu Educational Institutions which aim to recycle paper and teach our school community on it's contribution to our consumption. We have observed that our dependency for paper is concerning and we wanted to come up with an idea which can change our decency. We planned a 3 week educational program for the 4th grade students. We chose 4th graders as our target audience because they have PYP exhibit related with industry, climate change and recycling. We made an activity to teach them the process of recycling, a presentation to further explain consumption and innovative thinking, a creative thinking session with our papers and students to let their imagination run free. Our mission is to create an environment for our students to think innovatively.



**Hande Selvi Yanık** : Leader, Event Organizer and origami teacher  
**Carmelita Simla Dwyer**: Paper maker and application teacher  
**Melike Binici**: Content organizer, arts teacher  
**Seçil İdil Arpacı**: Photographer, arts teacher

## 9 INDUSTRY, INNOVATION AND INFRASTRUCTURE



In the 20th century, as most of our sources became digital, most work and educational departments rely on paper. We aim to reduce paper

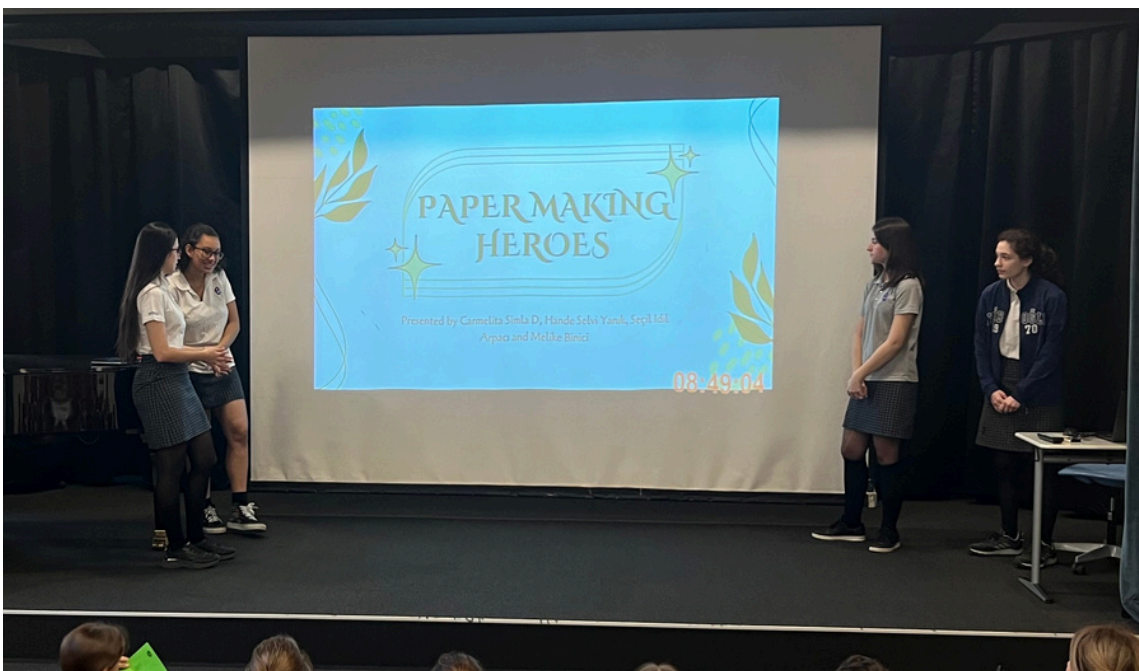
consumption by bringing a new aspect. Our mission is to prove that recycling and innovative thinking can be brought together.

## 12 RESPONSIBLE CONSUMPTION AND PRODUCTION



Recycling is a form of responsible consumption. Our schools mission since the pandemic is to reduce paper consumption, and

we contributed to this by making home made papers to use it on 4th graders arts lesson. We used recycled paper, and created an exhibition. This educational program's mission was to show the importance of UN goal 12.



## OUR EXPERIENCE : OCTOBER TO MAY

We started our journey in October when GSL was first introduced to us. We were fascinated by the fact that student from all around the world contributed to this- and we wanted to be a part of it. We didn't know how to start but the zoom lessons of the GSL team helped us to find our passions and the problems that we wanted to solve. We constantly saw and were sorry about the amount of paper we used daily. Our team mate Carmelita was interested in home made crafts, so we had a idea to make paper at home. We first decided to raise money to purchase the machine needed for paper making and to introduce this idea to our school society. However, our teacher suggested that the sale would be pointless since the machine is cheap and suggested that we could make an activity with students. We thought this was great so we immediately planned an after school activity for first graders to teach them how to make paper and have fun. We contacted first graders principle and arts department however we found out that first graders were not allowed to stay after school. This was devastating because we had so many funny ideas to have fun together and to learn. We then decided to make this activity with 2nd graders, since they were allowed to stay after school. We planned an after school activity with an entry price of 4 dollars because we planned too make a donation to TEMA foundation, which aims to protect the forest in Turkey. Yet again, our teachers said that teachers were not available to stay after school- so we had to do it during school time. We were exhausted and hopeless yet determined to finish this project. The 2nd grades principle suggested us to talk with the PYP director of our school. We visited her and she told us that she was really interested in our project. By coincidence their PYP groups were also working on climate change and industry and environmental pollution. By the time, it was the end of February - we had 2 weeks off. We worked during those 2 weeks to make a 3 week educational program for 4th grade students. We planned a presentation with short cartoon videos, and a in-class activity to show them the usage of paper daily by making origami by the papers that they used that day and and an activity in arts class to show them the process of making paper and painting. We constantly had time problems due to our exams and their 23 April show practices. We constantly replanned our time charts to make this happen. At the end, we met up with kids and taught them the importance of innovation, how new ideas can change the reality. We saw the happiness and the curiosity in the eyes, and how much they enjoyed made us proud of never giving up. We made friends and great memories. We learned how to teach small age groups and make great accomplishments with them. We definitely plan to contribute the GSL again next year- it was a one a life time experience.

## PARTS THAT CHALLENGED US

During our project we've been through a lot of obstacles. In this project, to increase the effectiveness of our project goal, we decided to work with primary school students. To get the permissions from their teachers to work with them was one of the hardest parts. We had to find a workshop that is suitable for their age- something interactive, fun and short. Secondly, we could reach them only via email and sometimes it's troublesome. Lastly, both graders' schedule is very full. Primary students and we have different events going on. Therefore when our schedules don't coincide, it's difficult to find a convenient time.

## HIGHLIGHTS FROM OUR EXPERIENCE

Our project journey was a long process which covers from October to May. Here are some highlights from our experience:

- We had the opportunity to work with primary school students and we made great connection with them. We think that they learnt a lot from our workshop and we influenced them in a positive way. Even one of the students said that she was very impressed and she will try to make paper at her home.
- At the beginning of our project we were going to make a more complex workshop which was more interactive. But due to some communication problems, we weren't be able to achieve that. This was a turning point for our project. We had to change the plot of workshop.

# THINGS WE LEARNT

This journey has been very beneficial for both sides. While they gained awareness about importance of recycling and the recycling of paper, we developed many abilities. Most crucially, we developed our planning skills. In order to make the presentation and the workshop we did, we made lots of planning. We know that without planning things won't go smoothly. We inform their teacher about things we want to do and we find a suitable time for both sides. Therefore we also developed our communication skills. Plus we learnt how to approach to and work with primary school students in terms of their interest span and their abilities. As our main goal, we learnt and taught them the importance of recycling, the recycling process of paper, the feasibility of recycling, and the applicability of it to our lives.

