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NEWS

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PVSC Educational Outreach Program Eclipses Milestone
300,000 Students Educated Since Program’s Inception

Since 2003, the Passaic Valley Sewerage Commission (PVSC) has offered an educational outreach program for students in grades K through 12 across its 48-municipality treatment district. The program educates young people about the steps that PVSC takes to keep local waterways (including the Passaic River, its tributaries and Newark Bay) healthy. The program also teaches young people about the effects of pollution on these waterways and the various things they can do to help mitigate pollution.

With the 2017-18 school year coming to a close, the program eclipsed an impressive milestone. It has now educated more than 300,000 students on visits to more than 1,300 district schools.

Most presentations take place in the classroom, in assembly halls or in outdoor settings along one of the shorelines of a local waterway. The curriculum is customized for each grade level. The lesson plan for younger groups includes a tutorial from Messy Marvin, a cartoon character who has learned about litter through his experiences near the water. Older groups learn through interactive, multimedia presentations, worksheets and activity books.

One of the primary goals of the program is to prompt students to become environmental stewards, people who are:

- conscious of the effects of litter on the water system.
- prone to participate in cleanups of local waterways.
- likely to encourage and recruit others to participate in such cleanups.

“Working with our municipalities to educate young people on wastewater treatment and on the effects of pollution is critical in PVSC fulfilling its mission to be good environmental stewards,” said PVSC Chairman Thomas Tucci, Jr. “PVSC takes tremendous pride in the fact that so many young people have been exposed to our educational outreach program and have worked with us to clean up the environment.”