

Dear Teacher:

Thank you for participating in our intermediate school outreach program promoting World Plumbing Day. Because much of the vital work performed by those in the plumbing industry is unpublicized, the profession is often misunderstood and its contribution to our communities taken for granted. Recognizing March 11 as World Plumbing Day seeks to celebrate the industry's contribution to health and safety through increased awareness of its efforts.

Most people, our children included, think of plumbers as the guy you call when the toilet won't flush or the pipe under the sink springs a leak. While there's nothing wrong with that — it's nice to be the one called to solve a problem — repair is only a small part of a plumber's work.

Behind the scenes, plumbers are installing and maintaining the very infrastructure that supplies our homes and classrooms with fresh, clean drinking water and removes the waste in a safe, sanitary manner. They are developing and enforcing codes that describe the best ways to install plumbing systems. And they are making sure the products used with the water — pipes, faucets, drinking fountains, showers, tubs, swimming pools, etc. — are safe and reliable.

And when there is a problem, of course, plumbers are there to help; and not just the common household variety. Following catastrophic natural disasters such as last year's devastating tsunami in Japan, plumbers are counted on to get vital potable water transportation systems back online quickly to ensure that clean, uncompromised drinking water is available to citizens in the affected areas.

We hope your students will enjoy watching our short introductory video and that doing so will encourage discussion of plumbing's contribution to humankind. And once they've given it some thought, all of your students are invited to participate in our poster contest, with all entries eligible to win one of three iPod Touch media devices.

Teachers are encouraged to share information about plumbing history, read stories about plumbers, lead a Q&A, etc. (World Plumbing Day fact sheets are provided along with the downloadable materials.) Students who complete a poster must include their name, grade level, school name and address and their teacher's name to be entered into the drawing for the iPod Touch, courtesy of The IAPMO Group.

Please package all completed posters together and mail them to The IAPMO Group, 4755 E. Philadelphia Street, Ontario, California, 91761. Send them to the attention of Duane Huisken. One student from each grade will be selected as winners and the iPods delivered to the winning schools.

Learning how the world around them operates is an important lesson for any student and we hope you'll be glad you made World Plumbing Day a part of your lesson plan. Thank you.

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