

Editor [Jim Welte](#): Heard some news you want us to check out? Let me know: jimw@patch.com



FREE membership to Care Connection
Click Here for More Information

Vind ik leuk

Schools

Ring Mountain Students Combat Climate Change

Dutch inventor visits school to help install his innovative devices that help plants grow in arid and water-starved regions.

By [Jim Welte](#) | [Email the author](#) | April 28, 2011

Flag as inappropriate

1 of 2

Have you seen the Groasis Waterboxx before? What do you think of the concept? [Tell us in the comments.](#)



The Groasis Waterboxx Credit [Jim Welte](#)

With the help of an award-winning Dutch inventor, [Ring Mountain Day School](#) students got a crash course Wednesday in an innovative device that seeks to combat climate change by helping plants, trees and vegetables grow in places where groundwater is in short supply.

As part of its effort to bolster its science program, the private K-8 school brought in [Pieter Hoff](#), the inventor of the "[Groasis Waterboxx](#)," which was named one of the top 10 inventions of 2010 by *Popular Science* magazine. The students had learned about the waterboxx prior to Hoff's arrival and assembled several.

The waterboxx is a small circular basin approximately 20 inches in diameter in which seeds are planted. The box is constructed to trap water needed for the plant to grow but distributing that water in small increments, keeping the plant alive but forcing it to establish its own roots in search of groundwater.

Hoff, a former tulip grower, said the idea for the waterboxx originated with his interest in trying to grow in regions with scarce groundwater. The ultimate goal, he said, is to boost food production and decrease carbon dioxide levels in drouhgt'stricken regions.

Hoff and the Ring Mountain students planted birch tree seeds along the ridge of the school's lower courtyard, with the inventor instructing each grade on the method of installation.

Hoff has distributed waterboxxes in countries including Morocco, Kenya, Spain and Ecuador in recent years, and connected with Ring Mountain through Petra Veerman, the head of the school's parent association.

Interested in a follow-up to this article?

Leave a comment



Advertise

Advertise on Patch and reach potential customers in your backyard and beyond. Click here for more information.

[Learn more >](#)

Volunteer

If you want to help local causes, or your cause needs local help, your next click should be right here.

[Learn more >](#)

Contribute

- [Send us news tips](#)
- [Put an event on the calendar](#)
- [Announce something to everyone](#)

Patch Info

- [About Us](#)
- [Jobs](#)
- [Advertise](#)
- [Terms of Use](#)
- [Privacy Policy](#)

Get in Touch

- [Help](#)
- [Contact Us](#)
- [Patch Blog](#)

Patch Initiatives

- [PatchU](#)
- [Patch.org](#)

Goodies

- [Newsletters](#)
- [Widgets](#)



Copyright © 2011 Patch. All Rights Reserved.

[Close](#)