Dear Jessica,

IMPORTANT SUMMIT UPDATE: To ensure that sponsored buses for transporting students and adults can be secured in time, there is now a registration deadline for the 18th annual Oregon Green Schools Summit.

If your certified Oregon Green School is planning to attend the Summit on April 11th, you must register online no later than Friday March 14th. Please contact us ASAP with questions.

If your school would like to be a presenter at the Summit, let us know that, as well.

REMEMBER: sponsorships are available to cover mileage and substitute teachers; just indicate the distance and amounts you need on your registration form.

Talk to your Regional Coordinator right away to finalize any certifications, so your school may attend (certification required for Summit attendance).

We’re excited to see you at the Summit!

Jeanette Hardison,
Admin Assistant to the OGSA Board

P.S.: Oregon Green Schools newsletters include images to enhance your reading experience. Please enable images in your email program for maximum enjoyment. Thanks!

School Spotlight:

Ridgewood Elementary

SWEET NEWS: Having been a Green School since 2008, Ridgewood Elementary renewed its Merit Level of certification on Valentine’s Day this year... Congrats!
PROMOTION: Sustainability is a way of life at Ridgewood, part of the school culture they promote. School efforts are included in the district-wide Waste Not, Watt Not newsletter; an Oregonian article showcased the Ridgewood Clothing Swap and promoted it in the community; and they hosted the 1st informational meeting for the Beaverton Eco-Schools Network.

One of the ways Ridgewood students educate others is with 5th grader "Ambassadors" who act as mentors/helpers for the younger kids - teaching them how to properly process their milk cartons for recycling, for example. They even have a Parent Green Team.

RECYCLING & REUSE: Ridgewood’s waste audit showed increased paper recycling and less paper in the trash, despite increased student enrollment. They collect classroom products and supplies at the end of school year for reuse, and have had "Trash-to-Treasure" Events with kids and parents creating art projects from recycled goods.

ENERGY & WATER: Sinks are all low-flow, the grounds crew monitors irrigation, and native plants were planted by the Brownie troop to help meet water conservation goals. Campus-wide, lights are only used when needed, and office equipment sleeps or is shut off daily.

OUTREACH: Students placed a bin at Cedar Park Middle School to collect items for Ridgewood’s 1-2x/year clothing swap, as an outreach activity and resource for larger clothing sizes. Cedar Park students were also invited to the swap. Ridgewood students also presented at several schools about starting and maintaining a milk carton recycling program.

Ridgewood believes the certification and renewal process has changed them "by allowing us to recognize and reconcile goals in the past with accomplishments and challenges that we have completed and faced. In so doing, it has allowed us to see our good works and places where we have opportunity for growth while at the same time stretching our school towards new goals."

"We are excited about what we have done and what is to come for Ridgewood’s sustainability in the next three years and beyond. We are excited to build on what we have done involve more people and leave a legacy of sustainability for years and students to come!"

Way to go, Ridgewood Elementary, Merit-Level Green School! Thank you to Sue Shade, Ridgewood's OGS Regional Coordinator and everyone who helped get their certification renewed.

REMINDER: Help OGS earn donations each time you use your Fred Meyer Rewards Card!

Link your Rewards Card to Oregon Green Schools to help us earn donations! Look for us by name, or Community Rewards Member #91914. Your rewards stay the

Fred Meyer donates $2.5 million a year to non-profits their customers like. CLICK HERE for more information, or HERE to sign up. Thanks!
**Registration is still open until March 14th**
for our **18th annual Oregon Green Schools Summit**, held at Cheldelin Middle School in Corvallis.

Meet other certified Green Schools from across Oregon for a day of learning and networking. Get energized about resource conservation and waste reduction. **It's FREE and fun, and sponsorships are available** to cover the cost of substitutes and mileage.

**Attendance:** One adult and four students from each school is the max. we can accommodate.

**Requirements:** School must already be certified Oregon Green Schools in order to attend.

**Displays:** Show other schools what you've been up to! Bring a creative, informative display.

If you have questions about the 2014 Green Schools Summit, please email our OGS Administrative Assistant, or call 541-752-5860, M-F 9-5pm.

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**Young Reporters for the Environment USA Competition Invites 2014 Entries**

The National Wildlife Federation's **Young Reporters for the Environment USA competition** invites students between the ages of 13-21 to report on an environmental issue in their community in an **article, photo or photo essay or short video**.

All entries should reflect firsthand investigation of topics related to the environment and sustainability in the students' own communities, draw connections between local and global perspectives, and propose solutions.

Submissions to the national competition are due by March 15, 2014. First-place winners in the national competition proceed to the international Young Reporters for the Environment competition, joining the entries of students from more than 25 countries around the world. Click [here](#) to see who won last year!
Students: You may enter individually or as part of a group.

Educators: The competition makes a perfect culmination to a group or class journalism project.

Visit www.yre-usa.org for full details and guidelines. Tune in to this archived webinar to get more tips for crafting a successful entry. Get the scoop, and then get reporting!

Call for Submissions: Green Living Project's 2014 Student Film Project Contest

Green Living Project is excited to accept student short films for the 2014 Student Film Project contest! In 5 minutes or less, films should tell a unique and compelling story about a sustainability-related project.

Winning films will be screened at GLP Films events throughout the year, and winners also receive gear and prizes up to $500 in value!

Contest is open to 6th grade through graduate level students. Submit by May 30, 2014!

Visit www.glpfilms.com/studentfilmproject for full contest details.

The Oregon Green Schools Association is a 501(c)3 nonprofit organization formed in 1997. We are dedicated to helping Oregon schools set up and maintain effective, permanent waste reduction and resource efficiency programs that improve school environments and communities, and to recognizing schools for their efforts and achievements.

Forward this email