June 2013

Dear Jeanette,

How exciting to be back with Oregon Green Schools! In the late-1990s, I participated in the committee of our OGSA founders, who were designing the Green Schools logo, Merit-level plaque, and Premier-level flag. I’m so honored to be part of this group once again.

Already, I attended the new OGSA High School Summit in Corvallis (see below) and have been extra busy with the flurry of Green Schools certification requests that come in at the end of the school year. This month I’ll be joining the OGSA Regional Coordinators at their annual meeting, as part of the Association of Oregon Recyclers annual conference. What a great group!

In addition to our monthly news from Green Schools across the state, this month’s newsletter is particularly full of additional learning opportunities. See our section on School Resources, below. Also check out TWO more Summits!

Thank you for your desire to push the green envelope at your schools... together, we make Oregon a leader in eco-conscious, lower-footprint educational facilities.

Warmly,
Jeanette Hardison
Admin Assistant to the OGSA Board

As always, we welcome any feedback you have that will help the board achieve the Oregon Green Schools mission and provide support to our member schools. Email us at: mail@oregongreenschools.org

School Spotlight: New Premier-Level School
Crescent Valley High School, Corvallis

Students at Takena Elementary in Albany, adding compost to their school garden beds
held a raffle, and made sure the evening went smoothly, including enthusiastically waving signs by the road!

Thanks to all who lent their support, we raised a couple hundred dollars for OGSA, 10% of their proceeds for the evening.

Please remember for future Dine-Out events, that when enough people come and show support, groups can earn as much as 30%!

We hope for STATEWIDE Burgerville events, so if you want to help in your area, please let us know.

Congrats to Tom, the Master Recycler who won the composter raffle, and our thanks to Bailey Payne and Marion County for donating the composter!

Special thanks to Lisa, the Albany Burgerville Shift Manager for all your help, and to the Donald, the General Manager for allowing a Dine-Out event for OGSA.

Success!

At the first High School Sustainability Summit & Earth Fair (article below), Crescent Valley High School was presented with its Premier Green School certification and OGSA flag.

Crescent Valley focuses a lot of attention on waste reduction and community outreach. Some of their projects have included planting the CVHS Arboretum in 2011, AP Environmental Science students creating recycling and energy conservation videos that are shown in classrooms and in the community, students and staff collecting and composting their food scraps on campus, holding regular "Trash Bash" events to clean up the campus, assisting other schools in becoming Oregon Green Schools, and spending numerous hours volunteering at community events.

CONGRATULATIONS Crescent Valley for working tirelessly and attaining the Oregon Green Schools PREMIER school status!

High School Sustainability Summit & Earth Fair 2013

The first annual Oregon Green Schools High School Sustainability Summit took place at Crescent Valley High School in Corvallis on May 30th, 2013. This day of conference-style learning and networking included a keynote address by Dr. Michael P. Nelson of OSU, breakout sessions, lunchtime Earth Fair, and afternoon discussion sessions. The entire event was coordinated by AP Environmental Science students, instructed by Peg Cornell. Outgoing OGSA Board member, Anne Schuster provided the vision and administrative guidance and support.

Breakout sessions included a discussion on ethics & climate change, a workshop on making your own reusable bag, sustainability action panel discussion, compost demonstration, and a Tesla electric car that made a special appearance, much to the students’ glee!
this newsletter, for example, and cover printing/mailing costs of Green School Certificates.

The kind of creative fundraising mentioned above is welcomed by OGSA Board and staff, and is deeply appreciated.

What other activities like this can you dream up?

Let us know your ideas! We are always interested in your input and feedback, and if we can support your efforts in any way, OGSA is just a call or email away!

Thanks so much.

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Earth Fair was held in the CVHS Quad. Participants included local businesses and a second-hand clothing fashion show. After the Earth Fair, lunch was served, using compostable service ware. One goal of the Summit was to make it a No-Waste event. Participants were encouraged to recycle or compost when possible.

Afternoon discussions wrapped up the day, giving students and adult participants a chance to reflect on their experience and share what they'd learned.

THANK YOU to all of our sponsors who made this day possible, workshop presenters, and OGSA supporting partners. And a special shout-out to CVHS principal Cherie Stroud, and all CVHS staff for their support and use of the facilities!

A sign frequently spotted above a Crescent Valley cafeteria table.
CVHS AP Environmental Science student Rachel, visiting the owl brought by Chintimini Wildlife Center staff during Earth Fair

Photos by OGSA Staff, Jeanette Hardison

Central Oregon Green School Showcase

Seven schools and nearly 100 people attended the first-ever Green School Showcase on May 15th at The Environmental Center in Bend. What an amazing evening!

Students shared the green work they have done at their schools with peers and parents via presentations, songs, and short films. Teams from Highland, REALMS, Ponderosa, Lava Ridge, Rosland, Juniper, and Cascade were present.

In addition to learning about the environment and becoming stewards, Green Team students are also developing and practicing a wide range of skills. These skills include leadership, math, writing, public speaking, technology, art, and marketing.

All left inspired and grateful for the work these students have accomplished in their schools. Five schools were awarded Oregon Green School certification!
Highland Elementary Students celebrate their successful presentation and recent Oregon Green School Award

School Resources

Sustainable Oregon Schools Initiative (SOSI): Sustainable Solutions Conference June 25, 2013
Creating Resilient Schools and Communities

June 24: Pre-Conference Activities
June 25: Conference, West Linn, OR

Scholarships still available (including travel assistance)
Many Reasons to Attend!

- Fantastic Pre-Conference Tour of new Veronia Schools: Designed to LEED Platinum
- Award Winning Location! Trillium Creek Primary received the 2013 National School Board Association Grand Prize in Architectural Design
- Keynote from Christian Long: Global advocate for education change, design thinking and rethinking the future of education
- Many Great Presentations, something for everyone:
  - Education, Standards, Student Voice, Learning Environments and Contexts
  - Innovative Facilities, Schoolyard Opportunities, Indoor Environmental Health
  - Funding, Planning and More!

Register Now!
Who should attend? K-12 teachers, district / school administrators & staff from all departments non-formal educators, school facility design & construction professionals, board members, college of education faculty & students, business, government & community leaders, student health stakeholders and high school students.
Questions? Contact Lori Stole, lstole@sustainableschools.org, 503-307-4067. Presented by:

- Sustainable Schools Collaborative
- Confederation of Oregon School Administrators
- AIA Portland - Committee on Architecture for Education
- Environmental Education Association of Oregon

View Many Other Upcoming Events on our Website!

FREE: Green Strides Webinar Series

Sponsored by the U.S. Department of Education, the Green Strides Webinar Series acquaints school communities with the tools to reduce their schools’ environmental impact and costs; improve health and wellness; and teach effective environmental literacy, including STEM, green careers, and civic engagement. It provides all schools access to the resources that help them move toward the Pillars of our U.S. Department of Education Green Ribbon Schools recognition award.

Visit http://www2.ed.gov/about/initiatives/green-strides/webinar.html for more information on each of these and other sessions for educators, facilities managers, and advocates:

- June 12, 2013, 4-5 p.m. Summer Reading for Environmental Education (EDN)
- June 18, 2013, 2-3 p.m. A School Administrator's Role in Green Cleaning (HSC)
- June 18, 2013, 3-4 p.m. Indoor Air Quality & Healthy Learning Environments (EPA)
- June 26, 2013, 4-5 p.m. BioDiversity Discovery: Next Generation Standards (NPS)
- July 10, 2013, 4-5 p.m. School Health Guidelines for Eating and Activity (CDC)
- July 23, 2013, 3-4 p.m. Protecting Kids from Pests and Pesticides (EPA)

OSU's ECampus Offers Online Environmental Classes

Oregon State University has a variety of environmental classes that are available online. Click HERE for a complete listing of
classes.

The most recent class is the Oregon Master Naturalist Program. The Oregon Master Naturalist Program is for people interested in Oregon's natural history and natural resources management who want to dedicate their time as volunteers. Nearly 40 states nationwide have similar programs.

It provides an opportunity to learn about natural resources through the study of scientifically sound information: the natural history of plants, animals, habitats, and geology, the history and processes of landscape change, as well as the most relevant topics in present-day sustainable natural resource management.

Participants volunteer for natural resources programs, agencies, organizations, and other groups in their communities. For more info. visit: http://oregonmasternaturalist.org/

Zayed Global High School Prize: $100,000. OGSA Invites Oregon Green Schools to apply!

The primary aim of the $100,000 Zayed Global High School Prize is to instill an ethos of sustainability in future generations across the globe. The Prize seeks to inspire children about the impact of energy-efficiency, the possibilities of alternative energy sources and the promise of sustainability.

The Global High School Prize does not focus on the past activities of schools, but considers proposals for new projects. While the main objective is to promote sustainability, special emphasis of the proposed project should be on energy measures or projects that the school would undertake that would directly result in measurable energy reduction or efficiency through sustainable and innovative means.

Grant money will be allocated to one school in each of five regions: The Americas, Europe, Africa, Oceania, and Asia. Each regional winner will be allocated up to $100,000, with final Prize amounts based on the financial information submitted in the project proposals.

Click HERE for more info. Report on the application form that you heard about the Prize from the Green Schools Alliance. Good luck!
News of our Green Schools

Sunnyside Environmental School in Portland was renewed as Premier Green School in Spring 2013

About Sunnyside: Sunnyside Environmental School started as a program in 1994 and in 2004 became a full campus, serving grades K-8. All curriculum revolves around the environment and shows how societal issues relate back to sustainability. Each year we cycle through a guiding theme from mountain to forest into the river. At Sunnyside, we hope to address issues in both rural and urban areas and explain how equity plays a role in sustainability. Our staff is dedicated to teaching students to be the change they wish to see in their future communities. We bring in a diverse set of speakers to morning assemblies so that our students can learn about the importance of a variety of topics, such as waste reduction.

We are serious about waste reduction. Not only do we have an extensive recycling system, but we also encourage staff and students to reuse one-sided paper and have a yearly Waste-Free Challenge to encourage critical thinking about waste disposal. Our school participates in the city composting program, and also feeds food scraps to chickens on site. We are lucky enough to have cooking classes to teach students how to use what they grow. We feel privileged to run these programs, and thank our PTSA for funding part time positions for a sustainability coordinator, garden coordinator, and farm-to-school coordinator.

We know that our sustainability work is most impactful if we can involve people outside of our school. That's why we focus on working with the community and addressing inequalities in Portland. Our students have raked leaves in the community, cleaned garbage from a nearby alleyway, and done an anti-coal export letter writing campaign.

Other projects we work on:

• An annual student run Christmas tree recycling fundraiser, open to the community.
• We have a partnership with another school in our district: Jason Lee Elementary. We presented to Jason Lee on energy conservation techniques and recycling systems, and hope to present to more schools in the future.
• We were one of many schools in our district to convert to natural gas boilers, reducing our oil usage.
• Students help wash reusable cutlery and trays, we no longer use Styrofoam!
• We reuse milk cartons for garden activities
• Worm bin compost for the garden
• Walk & Bike to School events promoting safe alternative modes of transportation
• Rain water collection for summer garden watering

We are so thankful to have so much support to make all of these projects happen! We are constantly working to improve our footprint, and hope we can continue working with other schools and communities to spread our mission; fostering responsibility, excitement for learning and respect for all living things.

News Around the Country: China's "Operation Green Fence" greatly limiting U.S. plastics recycling

Due to a recent phenomenon in China called "operation green fence" many shipments of plastics from the U.S. and other countries that are not standard tubs or bottles or have excessive levels of contamination are being rejected.

This has had a huge negative impact on the plastic recycling industry, particularly for miscellaneous types of plastic and plastic containers #3-#7.

Evidently many of the plastic bales that they've been receiving have contained high levels of contamination (such as food waste, and garbage) or low grade plastics like toys, etc.

Since February, they have started to reject loads that contain these types of plastics so recyclers throughout Oregon and beyond are forced to curtail what they can accept. This drop in demand has also had the effect of lowering the value of what recyclers get paid for the plastics and have forced Agri-Plas Inc. in Brooks, Oregon to lay off many of their employees.

Hopefully this issue will get resolved; however at this point it is expected that the "green fence" will continue through November and maybe beyond.

Many of the businesses that Agri-Plas previously picked up from are facing the same situation and will need to temporarily throw away plastics that they have been recycling.

Some silver linings to this phenomenon may be cleaner processing of plastics for recycling (good for the whole planet), incentives to build stronger plastics recycling infrastructure here in the U.S. (good for the economy), and an opportunity to educate on the benefits of avoiding packaging whenever possible since we can't always count on recycling to make our unwanted stuff "go away."

Meet the OGSA Board: Treasurer, Jeannie Ramsey
My name is Jeannie Ramsey, and I joined the OGS Board in Spring of 2013 as the new Treasurer. Some of my Board duties will include planning fundraising events and helping promote OGS throughout the state. I love talking to people, so am excited to meet all the regional coordinators and volunteers who educate the schools and students to work toward a sustainable future.

I have a BUS degree from the University of New Mexico, where I'm originally from. I currently work as a program coordinator in Linn and Benton counties for Community Services Consortium (CSC). I came to Corvallis in 2010 to serve as a VISTA Leader at CSC, and fell in love with Corvallis. It is great to be in a town that works so diligently on sustainable living, which is a passion of mine.

I've kept a paperless kitchen for over 20 years! That was probably my first step toward being conscious of my impact on the environment. I've done a lot of different things to reduce my impact, including volunteering at events. I worked at the Oregon State University move-out event the last two years, where I met Andrea Norris, who told me about the Master Recycler classes offered locally by OSU and Republic Services. I took the classes became a Master Recycler in 2012. I recommend this excellent program to everyone!

I attended the Green Schools Summit in March, 2013 and was amazed to see all the great hands-on projects that were presented. I look forward to learning more about the OGS programs that teach students to develop the importance of waste reduction that leads to sustainable living.

OGSA Board Goodbyes:

Our deepest thanks to all previous OGSA Board members for their time and dedication to the greening our Oregon schools. Most recently, we said goodbye to John Matthews, Anne Schuster, Colleen Wellnitz, and Board Chair, Heath Keirstead. THANK YOU and we'll miss you!