Hi, just a reminder that you're receiving this email because you have expressed an interest in Oregon Green Schools Association. Remember to add mail@oregongreenschools.org to your contacts so we'll be sure to land in your inbox!

You may unsubscribe if you no longer wish to receive our emails.

Oregon Green Schools Newsletter

IN THIS ISSUE:
- Summit 2014
- Farewell to Jan Rankin, Co-Founder of OGS
- July Sustainability Camp--scholarships by Jun 1; CEUs available
- Fred Meyer shopping supports Green Schools!

Dear Jessica,

Oregon Green Schools is making some changes to our newsletters, to provide you with the most useful and interesting information. Please utilize our Table of Contents to the left, to navigate without much scrolling.

As always, if YOU have exciting news about your school's programs, successes, awards, etc. and would like us to share it, please just shoot us an email. We will consider content as space allows. Photos are encouraged!

Enjoy the few weeks we have left of the 2013-14 school year!

Jeanette Hardison,
Admin Assistant to the OGSA Board

Celebrating a Successful 2014 Green Schools Summit!

The 18th annual meeting of certified Oregon Green Schools took place at Life Community Church in Corvallis on Friday, April 11 this year. It was an amazing day of learning and networking, well attended and appreciated by all. As always, many excited and eager students and adults were in attendance and enjoyed every minute.

Elementary and middle school activities and presentations spanned across two sessions. Titles included:

- The Soil Food Web, with Oregon Tilth
- Renewable Energy Jeopardy
- Paper Making & Our Forests
- Reuse workshop about Turning Trash into Peace
All about Oregon's Bottle Bill, with OBRC
Musical Instrument-making workshop with our summit EduTainers, The Tangled Threads
How to expand your Green School efforts
Waste-themed scavenger hunt to learn about sustainability
Upcycling waste into wearable art, with Naturally Up-cycled
Session on Honey Bees, with Nectar Bee Supply
and, one room full of lucky students got to grab tools and aprons and take apart computers, learning how to scrap them out properly for recycling...

Students provided inspiration and awe to each other as they presented their school's achievements in the Summit Showcase, with displays they made themselves.

High school students learned about commercial-level composting, waste and recycling during a field trip to the Pacific Region Compost Facility and Coffin Butte Landfill, led by local recycling educator and coordinator, Emily Phillips of Republic Services. (Emily is also an Oregon Green Schools Board member and the 2014 Summit Chair.)

Their day rounded out with the Water Critters and Chemistry workshop where high schoolers learned about healthy watersheds and the life in healthy streams, led by former Green Schools Board Chair, Heath Keirstead of Benton County Soil & Water Conservation District.

The Adult Roundtable gave interested teachers, industry professionals and other chaperones the opportunity to share ideas and network, led by Corvallis School Board member, Anne Schuster, herself a strong sustainability leader in the area.

Everyone dined together mid-day with their no-waste lunches and reusable water bottles from home, and at the end received cookies and special Summit cloth napkins to use at home.

Attendees were entertained by "The Tangled Threads" - a fun and talented duo making music with washboards and stilts, kazoos and a home-made ukelele, singing originals and spoofs to educate kids about being good earth stewards.

After presenting retiring Oregon Green Schools co-founder Jan Rankin with an award (see below) for her many years of wonderful service and leadership, the Summit rounded out with an open mic session where students were invited to share what they learned at the Summit and what they are doing at their school. Approximately 50 students were brave enough to speak to the entire audience. Everyone left feeling engaged and energized!

All in all, another VERY successful Oregon Green Schools Summit! See you in 2015!

CLICK HERE FOR MORE SUMMIT PHOTOS.
The Oregon Green Schools Board would like to recognize a very special person in this issue of the newsletter. Jan Rankin will be retiring in June 2014. Jan was a founding Board member of Oregon Green Schools and served on the Board for many years. For almost 20 years, Jan has been heavily involved in Oregon Green Schools as a regional coordinator, a summit planner and organizer, and a Board member. Oregon Green Schools would not be the organization that it is today without Jan's contributions and leadership over the years.

In addition to her contributions to the Board, Jan has been a mentor to schools and to new regional coordinators. The Board thanks Jan for her years of service and for her dedication to education and the environment. We will all miss her tremendously!

We would also like to provide some words from one of Jan's Premier schools:

"About Jan Rankin? I don't know where to start...

She visited Kelly Creek Elementary in Gresham back in 1995. I was a new head custodian and didn't know anything about recycling. She asked me if I would be willing to organize a recycling team of students. Of course I was hesitant because I did not know anything about this.

Jan helped me get started and she did not stop there. She continued to help me through the learning and process of putting this school recycling program together.

We became an Oregon Green School with her help and persuasion, eventually becoming a Premier Green School in 1997. We have continued without expiring ever since. The application process and requirements are not easy so without her help, none of this would have been possible.

Schools have depended on her help for many grants from the City of Gresham and others. Jan always helped me with those applications to make our many resource conservation projects possible. We have been able to have a six member recycling team all these years and reward them for their hard work with these grants.

We used the grants for projects like giving away waste-free lunch kits 3 different years, purchasing team sweatshirts every year, starting worm composting, and taking field trips.
Jan has been an endless source of education for me and my teams through the years and has helped us to attend every Green School Summit and even host it here at Kelly Creek one year. She organized all of our trash audits every year. She volunteered many times to help us with our school BBQs in effort to reduce waste by washing dishes or helping wherever needed.

Jan organized our Gresham Barlow School District Resource Conservation Committee. This district meeting requires a representative from each district school to attend and report and share what is happening at each school with resource conservation and helps all of us with ideas on how to keep our programs sustainable and growing.

Most of all she has become a very important friend to me. I will miss working with her so much. The kids love her. She has a special way of connecting with anyone she meets.

There are so many things Jan has done for us at Kelly Creek. I can't write them all. Her shoes will be very hard to fill. I love Jan."

Christa Sherwood-Garman
Kelly Creek Elementary

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To thrive in a changing world, our kids need to think in systems... and act for a healthy future. That's why we created Camp Snowball-a summer "camp" experience that brings together students, parents, educators, and business and community leaders to build everyone's capacity for learning and leading in the 21st century.

- See more at: http://new.campsnowball.org/about/#sthash.IrU8ky1t.dpuf

To thrive in a changing world, our kids need to think in systems... and act for a healthy future. That's why Portland Public Schools created Camp Snowball - a summer "camp" experience that brings together students, parents,
educators, and business and community leaders to build everyone’s capacity for learning and leading in the 21st century.

Co-hosted by Peter Senge, author of *The Fifth Discipline: The Art and Practice of the Learning Organization* and an international expert on systems thinking and organizational development, this promises to be a fun, engaging and informative week on the PSU campus. [VISIT www.campsnowball.org for more information.](http://www.campsnowball.org)

**SPECIAL SCHOLARSHIPS AVAILABLE:**
This year they are pleased to offer some special scholarships for teacher/high school student pairs from the same school who wish to focus on Education for Sustainability. The pair must also commit to at least two follow-up coaching calls with the grantmaker who has taught and developed curriculum in this area. The scholarships covers registration. Travel, accommodations, and expenses are on your own. [Apply for funding assistance by June 1.](http://www.campsnowball.org)

"We can't wait to see you this summer--
LeAnne, Elayne and the Camp Snowball Team"

P.S. Please spread the word! Forward this information to your colleagues.

Thanks!

**REMINDER:** Help OGS earn donations for FREE, 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.](http://www.fredmeyer.com) Your rewards stay the same; Fred Meyer just donates $2.5 million a year to non-profits their customers like. [CLICK HERE](http://www.fredmeyer.com) for more information or to sign up. Thanks!

*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.*

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