



Oregon Green Schools newsletter

Fall 2008

Welcome!

The Oregon Green Schools Association has created this newsletter to keep you informed about Green School happenings around the state. We hope this new issue will inspire schools to jumpstart or improve their programs. New schools are always welcome!

Your contributions are welcome, too! Please let us know about your events and activities so that we can include them in a future newsletter or on our website.

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The mission of the Oregon Green Schools Association is to assist Oregon schools in setting up, maintaining and recognizing effective, permanent waste reduction and resource efficiency programs that improve the school environment and the community.

Kelly Creek Wins National Award!

By Jan Rankin

Kelly Creek Elementary, the longest running certified Premier Oregon Green School in the state, recently won Ford Motor Company's "Educate to Escape" contest and received "green" improvements to the school worth \$250,000. The contest is run in collaboration with ABC TV's "Extreme Makeover."



Members of the Aardvark Recycling Team enjoy their school's new recycled tires playground surface.

Christa Garman, the school's head custodian, submitted an essay outlining the environmental efforts the school has undertaken in the past and their desire to resurface the playground with a safe, environmentally-friendly material made from recycled tires. Hers was selected as the winner from among 35,000 entries nationwide. When queried as to what in particular swayed the judges toward Kelly Creek's application, Ford Motor representatives indicated it was the dedicated, hands-on involvement of the student Aardvark Recycling Teams that have served the school for almost 15 years.

In addition to receiving the new playground surface, the school now has new playground equipment made from recycled materials, low-flow toilets in every restroom, Marmoleum® flooring in the entryway, and has met LEED certification criteria.

Take a look at: <http://www.fordvehicles.com/forddriveone/> The video is titled "Ford Takes Green To School."

Congratulations to the Winners of Our Incentive Awards!

Oregon Green Schools Association gave ten \$300 awards in the 2007-2008 school year to encourage new schools to become Green or current Green Schools to move up a level to Merit or Premier.

Awards were presented to: Byrom, Fairfield, Hilda Lahti, Shaver, Talent, Powell Valley, and Territorial elementary schools; Chehalem Valley and Pleasant Hill middle schools; and Livingstone Adventist Academy. Awards were used to further promote waste reduction and recycling at these schools. Congratulations, everyone!

2008-2009

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Counting our Blessings this Holiday Season

By Jan Rankin

As the holidays approach, we take stock of the world around us and give thanks for the countless blessings that we enjoy -- family, great friends, great food... and great supporters!

We on the Board are deeply appreciative of the generosity that our many contributors show to Oregon Green Schools. **“THANK YOU!”** to all of those individuals, government agencies, companies and organizations that make OGS possible.

We would like to single out **OREGON REFUSE AND RECYCLING ASSOCIATION (ORRA)** and its members to let them know of our sincere gratitude for all they have done for us over the years. ORRA has been a great long-time friend and supporter to Oregon Green Schools. It was the first organization to provide financial support to OGS over ten years ago and has unflinchingly continued to do so ever since. In addition to assistance from ORRA itself, many of its individual members (haulers) provide sponsorships to the Summit and supply OGS recognitions to the schools in their service areas.

Happy Holidays and THANKS SO MUCH!

Annual Summit March 5, 2009 – “It Starts With a Ripple!”

Oregon State Fairgrounds in Salem, Oregon
Thursday, March 5, 2009, 8:30 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.

Thanks to generous sponsors, there is no cost for schools to attend, as sponsorships cover the cost of substitute teachers, transportation, and lunch. **Only certified Green Schools are eligible to attend.** If your school is not yet a Green School (or your certification is expiring), you have until February 11th to become one. Contact your regional OGS Coordinator to find out how. (You'll find a list of regional coordinators at www.oregongreenschools.org).

We'll have the classic sessions like **Papermaking, Waste Audits** and **Compost Critters**, along with sessions geared especially for high school students and teachers. This year's Summit has a special focus on **resource conservation** with sessions such as: composting, water-related conservation, a clean water challenge, and maximizing school recycling! And each school brings a tabletop display to share. Don't be shy – brag a little about your school's resource conservation efforts!

You'll receive your Summit registration information via email in January. Registration will be online beginning **January 5, 2009** and schools will be accepted until maximum capacity is reached. Register early or you could miss out. Each school may bring one adult and four students to the Summit. **Questions?** Contact your regional OGS Coordinator, or Cathy McGuire at greenschoolin@yahoo.com, or phone (541) 367-0711. Registration will be on our website at www.oregongreenschools.org.

Welcome New and Recertified Green Schools!

Congratulations to the following schools that have been certified since the publication of our last newsletter:

GREEN

Abernethy Elementary	Nancy Bond
Ackerman Middle School	Eileen Stapp
Bethel Elementary School	Kelley Cooley
Boones Ferry Primary School	Eileen Stapp
Candalaria Elementary School	KelleyCooley
Cedar Oak Park Primary School	Eileen Stapp
David Douglas High School	Freda Sherburne
Eagle Creek Elementary	Eileen Stapp
Gilbert Park	Freda Sherburne
Robert Gray Middle School	Nancy Bond
Roosevelt Middle School	Anne Donahue

Rigler Elementary	Nancy Bond
Templeton Elementary	Freda Sherburne

MERIT

Carus Elementary	Eileen Stapp
Skyline Elementary	Nancy Bond
Ventura Park Elementary	Freda Sherburne

PREMIER

Glencoe Elementary	Nancy Bond
Sunset Primary	Eileen Stapp

Three Days at the Fair

Oregon Green Schools Association Board members and volunteers provided a variety of fun activities for the Sustainability Area at the Oregon State Fair, August 25-27.

On the 25th, 140 children learned a fun way to conserve energy as they constructed simple solar ovens, and "baked" a s'more using sunshine. Their families boarded a Cherriots bus, received travel training on how to use mass transit, and were presented with a card good for one free day of travel on Cherriots, Salem's local bus service. Many alternative-fueled vehicles were on display. Attendees learned how their fuel and transportation choices affect the environment and their pocketbooks.

Children got their hands wet and their minds swimming at the water cycle scavenger hunt on Tuesday the 26th. From groundwater to crayfish, kids explored aquatic wonders at nine stations and received storm drain tattoos for their efforts. Partners from the City of Salem and two conservation districts worked together to create this fun and rewarding educational event.

On the 27th, volunteers led families in creative re-use activities, such as making a wind chime with keys and a ring-toss game. Bonnie White, a Master Gardener volunteer, taught visitors the fun of composting fruit and veggie waste in a worm bin – and a few lucky participants won bins to take home! More than 50 visitors to the booth learned how to help conserve resources (and money!) by packing a waste-free lunch. Those who signed waste-free lunch pledges were given an Oregon Green School napkin!

Many thanks to the OGSA volunteers who staffed this event!



Crescent Valley Explores Community Sustainability

By Julie Jackson

Students at Crescent Valley High School have taken the concept of sustainability a step further than most. With the help of Sheila Fowler's leadership class and Peg Cornell's AP Environmental Science class, students are working to make positive new changes.

Crescent Valley is making a difference in their community by school recycling, looking at how consumerism impacts sustainability, and turning off lights when not in use or not needed. Cornell's students are working on sustainability projects of their own choosing. Some of the projects include: researching the possibility of making sports uniforms locally; buying food produced locally for the cafeteria; and speaking with the school district about converting school vehicles to bio-diesels. Students are also working with the Corvallis Sustainability Coalition to develop a sustainability action plan that they will send to the city council, in an effort to make sure the voice of the next generation is a part of the community dialogue.

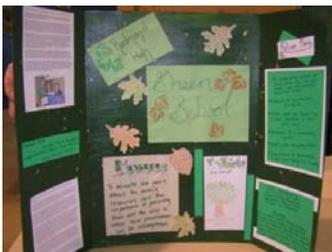


Crescent Valley HS students examining recyclables.

Get Your Thinking Caps On: Summit Displays from 2008



Now is the time to start thinking about creating your Summit '09 display!



Talent Elementary – New but Fired Up!

By Denise Wright

Our "green team" students were so excited by the OGSA March Summit that they took what they learned and demonstrated making the solar ovens out of pizza boxes at the April Earth Day event in Talent. Even though we had snow and rain that day, the marshmallows did melt in what little sun we had – and it was a hit with the public!

This fall, five students participated in the Talent Harvest Festival. They were put in charge of the recycling, and educated the public on how to reduce waste. And at the school, in our "Talent Green Garden", students learned about composting and growing vegetables and flowers. This year we had pumpkins from the garden for sale at the Talent Fall Carnival to benefit student educational activities. The kids composted all their school lunches and we recycled much paper, not just from the school. In fact, we have 650 phone books to recycle in the spring, with more coming in each day. We have had a walk/bike school day which was very successful. We plan on having quite a few more of these days per month. We encourage everyone to do this, even staff.

Welcome New Regional Coordinators!

We have a few new faces at Oregon Green Schools Association:

Gretchen Ammerman has a strong background in the environment. She has an environmental science degree and worked with Lincoln County before moving to North Lincoln Sanitary Service. She was State Recycling Coordinator in Hawaii when the state's bottle bill was passed and helped launch a curbside recycling program in northern California. She was hired by North Lincoln Sanitary to expand recycling/ resource conservation into local schools - not just to encourage more recycling, but to be a classroom information resource. Currently she is working with a high school in Lincoln City. The school has linked with a college extension program to create an organic garden - the special needs classroom actually runs the program - and she is hoping to "close the loop" with a cafeteria composting project.

Risa Buck of Ashland Sanitary, has already proven to be a force to be reckoned with in the Ashland/Talent/Phoenix area. She certified Talent Elementary as a Green School and joined them at the Summit last March. She is contacting area schools and is confident that more will receive certification soon. She most loves "connecting the dots" - helping students and adults understand how recycling and sustainability affect our everyday lives.

Jennifer Purcell with Tillamook County comes from a background of project management and marketing. She is looking forward to expanding outreach and education, especially to students, and she appreciates that OGSA gives her a framework. Jennifer considers schools and businesses to be her first-tier target audiences. She brings creativity and enthusiasm to discussions about waste reduction/diversion. "Tillamook is very connected to natural environment. That's a plus!" she says. Currently the County is partnering with a city that's resurfacing a sports court - they are placing bins in every school and encouraging students to recycle their athletic shoes to be ground by Nike and used as resurfacing.

Marianne Swafford, Recycling Account Specialist at Newberg Garbage, says she enjoys the variety in her job and also the public education aspect. Previously she was a volunteer coordinator for Lincoln City OR and a crime prevention coordinator in Billings MT. She is looking forward to meeting with her five certified schools and other schools in her area and to expanding recycling opportunities generally in the area.

Welcome to all our new regional coordinators. We are grateful for your enthusiasm and for the assistance you provide to schools around the state.

More new coordinator bios next time.

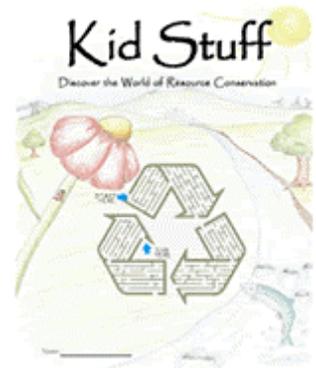
Kid Stuff – A Fun Way to Learn

By Eileen Stapp

This 16-page, 4-6th grade student resource conservation booklet has information on subjects from recycling to sustainability. I compiled contributions from resource conservation educators from Clark

County to Benton County. Artwork was provided by our ex-AmeriCorps member, Emily Langerak. Inside, there are board games, mazes, crosswords, word-finds and other fun activities that educate the reader about our resources.

The first print order of 33,000 will go out to teachers, coordinators and others statewide who pre-ordered this summer. Due to additional demand, I will be placing another order in December. It is printed in full color on 72% post-consumer recycled stock milled by Blue Heron in Oregon City. Price per copy will depend on the number ordered -- the last order cost less than 15 cents a copy including shipping. Contact me at eileens@co.clackamas.or.us if you have questions or are interested in ordering for the next printing.



Coordinator Training at AOR

Regional Coordinators are the volunteers who serve as the face of the Oregon Green Schools Association in 24 regions of the state. They are the people schools contact to become certified Green Schools and who they come to for assistance, ideas, and links to other resources. Since these dedicated volunteers need to be “in the know”, they attend annual training sessions. Twenty coordinators met at this year's training on June 6th in Seaside, as well as individuals from other states trying to model a program after ours. Most attendees were already in town attending the AOR (Association of Oregon Recyclers) Conference. This year's training covered the basics: OGSA Chair Jan Rankin reviewed the application and award registration process; Treasurer Anne Donahue oriented coordinators on the OGSA Incentive Grant program and Eileen Stapp arranged the training session, shared updates on procedural changes for regional coordinators and for schools applying for certification, provided a new OGSA organizational chart and gave helpful tips. Many coordinators won door prizes. Afterwards, the regional coordinators were treated to a tasty lunch sponsored by Allied Waste -- a huge “Thank You” to Allied for their continued support and generosity!

Sustainable Education Partnership: A Creative Connection!

By Cathy McGuire

As Oregon Green Schools Association works to encourage students K-12, we are always looking for ways to expand the connection with the larger community. A wonderful partnership has been created with the Environmental Leadership Program of University of Oregon's Environmental Studies Program. The program provides graduate and undergraduate students an opportunity to team up with government agencies, non-profit organizations, and local businesses to work on real-world environmental monitoring, mapping and education and outreach projects.

The Sustainable Education Partnership team is currently working with the Institute for Sustainability Education and Ecology (ISEE), and the Oregon Green Schools Program, through Anne Donahue, the OGSA regional coordinator, to assist eight local schools to

become certified as Oregon Green Schools. The student members of this team not only go into the schools to conduct waste audits, they have created lively blogs online to update the community as to their progress! And one group – Matthew Bigongiari's fifth-grade class at **The Village School** and their UO liaison Nik Steinberg – were recently featured in a *Eugene Register Guard* article entitled, “Slimy Pickings”! The article documented the kids' actions and reactions as they did a waste audit and sorted their garbage into compost, recyclable paper, recyclable plastic, metals and nonrecyclable material.

Other participating schools include: **Agnes Stewart Middle School**, which has a recycling class that offers the students a chance to take out the recycle bins from classrooms, sort and recycle drink bottles, and learn about the importance of recycling; **César E. Chávez Elementary School**, which is discussing a school-wide composting program and a “Green Bulletin Board” for the entire school; **Corridor Elementary School**, which has done their waste audit and is studying water conservation; **Ridgeline Montessori** which has an established school compost system; **Kelly Middle School**; **North Eugene High School** and **River Road/El Camino del Rio Elementary School**. With the encouragement and assistance of the college students, these schools are moving forward quickly on their certifications. You can read more about these schools and the Sustainable Education Partnership team at:

<http://envs.uoregon.edu/elp/green/doku.php>.



U of O Sustainable Education Partnership

Chapman Hill Elementary – Sustainability Reaches into the Community

By Maureen Foelkl

Chapman Hill in Salem has been a Premier Green School since 2004. We're proud of that status, and we work to maintain high-level green and sustainable efforts. We recycle paper, cardboard, batteries, glass, milk cartons, cans, plastic bags, printer cartridges and much more. Students maintain vermicomposting with two large composters and use the resulting compost in our organic garden. Our school building is actively involved in the Watt Watcher program -- data is collected daily by students and each week, as part of our morning announcements, Watt Watchers are recognized for their effort. Our Roots and Shoots organization wrote a play entitled, "Sniff It Out", designed their costumes and built the props. The play follows the EPA guidelines that can be found at <http://www.epa.gov/epaoswer/non-hw/reduce/catbook/index.htm>.

Premier school status expands into our community. Our school monitors the local creek for water quality and submits data to the City of Salem through the Adopt-A-Stream Program. We are involved with the neighborhood Data Walk program where students gather information and inform the surrounding neighborhoods of any potential hazards that may contaminate our stream. Erase the Waste is a partnership with the City: students and staff give informational materials and a dog treat to dog owners at a nearby park, reminding them to clean up after their pet. We are always greeted with smiles and a thank you. In April, our students decorate grocery bags with environmental tips. On Earth Day, our local grocery store will package purchases in the decorative bags. You can find a sampling of our environmental messages at: <http://www.earthdaybags.org/index.htm>.

Our success is due to the extraordinary efforts of our students, staff and community members as we continue to strive towards making our planet the greenest.

Please visit <http://chapmanhill.salkeiz.k12.or.us/conservationpolicy.htm> and learn how you can reduce solid waste at home and work. We have a PowerPoint presentation entitled "Reducing Solid Waste" that contains many tips and illustrations, suggesting a strategy for any group or individual who wants to reduce their "footprint".



Eager Chapman Hill recyclers.



"Sniff it Out" performed at the OGSA Summit Showcase.



Chapman Hill students attend the Summit.

DID YOU KNOW?

Water bottles purchased after January 1, 2009 will have a refund value of 5 cents in Oregon.

Oregon E-Cycles, established by Oregon's electronics recycling law, takes effect January 1, 2009. Recycle locations will be available in every county; check www.oregonrecycles.org after December 15.

Oregon Green Schools Incentive Award Program Continues!

Again this year, thanks to funding from the Department of Environmental Quality, \$5,000 in Incentive Awards (in \$500 amounts) will be offered to schools in underserved areas across the state. Schools must be new Oregon Green Schools from an underserved area (see below). Awards are given on a first come basis, until all funds are dispersed. Application deadline for schools in underserved areas ends February 13th. Starting March 1st, any remaining funds will be made available (in \$300 awards) to any new Oregon Green School or any school moving up to Merit or Premier levels.

The underserved counties are:

Oregon Coast	Willamette Valley & Southern Oregon	Columbia Gorge, Central & Eastern Oregon	
Clatsop Columbia Tillamook Lincoln Coos & Curry	Yamhill Polk Tualatin Douglas Jackson Josephine	Deschutes La Grande Nyssa Crook Jefferson Umatilla	Hood River Sherman Wasco In addition, all counties East of Jefferson County

Be a friend to Oregon Green Schools!

The Oregon Green Schools Association is dedicated to improving the school environment and community through waste reduction assistance and recognition. Your contribution helps to provide educational displays and recognition materials for schools and supports the annual Green Schools Summit.

Yes! I want to become a Friend of Oregon Green Schools. Enclosed is my contribution for:
 \$5 Student \$25 Basic \$50 Merit \$100 Premier \$250 Best Friend \$_____ Other

Name _____ Affiliation _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Telephone (w) _____ (h) _____ email _____

Mail checks payable to: Oregon Green Schools Association
 Send to: Oregon Green Schools
 PO Box 2186, Salem, OR 97308-2186

Thank You!

Contributions to the Oregon Green Schools Association are tax deductible