

# Oregon Green Schools

# newsletter

Spring 2008

## Welcome!

Beginning with this issue, we hope you enjoy receiving our newsletter electronically. Saving paper is important to all of us!

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.

## What's inside?

Thanks, Sponsors!.....	2
New Board Member.....	2
KATU feature.....	2
Green Schools Updates.....	3
Better Living Show.....	3
Lincoln High.....	4
Butler Creek Elem.....	4
Ewing Young Elem.....	4
Deep Creek Elem.....	5
Hollydale Elem.....	5
Salem-Keizer.....	5
Clackamas County.....	6
M.I.T.C.H. Charter.....	6
Centennial HS.....	6
McCarty Middle.....	7
East Orient Elem.....	7
Lynch View Elem.....	7
Mabel Rush Elem.....	7
Not Cool to Idle.....	8
Chinook Book.....	8

*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.*

## Oregon Green Schools: We've Got the Power!

By Cathy McGuire

The 12<sup>th</sup> annual Oregon Green Schools Summit was a big success! Held at the State Fairgrounds in Salem, the event hosted 450 attendees including representatives from 75 schools from as far away as Ashland and Bend. All were eager to share their resource conservation and sustainability programs and to learn more about how to help the environment.



*Danielle Folliard teaches students about the life cycle of a river and how pollution impacts it*

Popular sessions included those on solar energy, worm bins, water filtration and river pollution issues. Many students were enthused about the hands-on displays and informational sessions on green cars, trucks and buses. Students took home sheets of handmade recycled paper and art made from recycled scrap. Teens and adults shared their experiences at roundtable discussions and were given an on-site tour of Garten Recycling, which provides large-scale recycling for Willamette Valley communities while providing jobs for people with disabilities.

All schools were encouraged to bring table-top displays about their programs, so the main hall was full of colorful exhibits. Attendees could also view the exhibits of a dozen companies or programs, including PGE, Schnitzer Steel Industries, BRING Recycling, and Salem Electric.



*One of many colorful school displays*

Everyone enjoyed a pizza and salad lunch and was careful to recycle the food, plates and utensils, all of which were biodegradable. In the afternoon, they were entertained by "Recycleman and the Dumpster Divers" and their message of "Recycle! Recycle! Recycle!"

Attendance at the Summit is free to all certified Green Schools and is made possible by the generous support of individual, foundation, government and corporate sponsors, including those listed on Page 2.

2007-2008

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## Notes from the Board

**A BIG THANKS!** to our Summit sponsors, with special kudos to our host, Oregon State Fair and Expo Center.

Allied Waste of Corvallis • Allied Waste of Marion County  
Allied Waste of Salem • Allied Waste of Washington & Clackamas Counties  
Arrow Sanitary • American Sanitary Service • Ashland Sanitary  
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Schnitzer Steel Industries • SP Recycling Corporation  
Suburban Garbage • Twelve-Mile Disposal  
Valley Garbage & Recycling • Valley Recycling and Disposal, Inc.  
Waste Management • Western Oregon Waste

### Welcome Aboard, Heath!

We're happy to announce that Heath Keirstead of Benton Soil & Water Conservation District in Corvallis has joined the Board. She brings a watershed perspective to OGSA.

Heath is an education coordinator, working with students and teachers. She writes a natural resources education newsletter, collaborates with many natural resources education providers in Benton County, and attends community events to spread the word about soil and water conservation. Heath is an enthusiastic Master Recycler. She is also a first-time home owner dedicated to improving her home's energy efficiency.



Heath Keirstead, OGSA Board  
Member at Large

**CHECK IT OUT!** KATU Channel 2, Portland's 'GO GREEN' featuring three Premier Oregon Green Schools – Hollydale Elementary, Powell Valley Elementary and Pleasant Valley Elementary. Take a look at: [http://www.katu.com/features/familymatters/go\\_green](http://www.katu.com/features/familymatters/go_green)

## Welcome New and Recertified Green Schools!

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

### GREEN

**Alberta Rider Elementary** -- Freda Sherburne  
**All Saints Catholic Grade** -- Freda Sherburne  
**Chehalem Valley Middle** -- Jodie Hoogendam  
**DaVinci Arts Middle** -- Nancy Bond  
**Emerson School** -- Freda Sherburne  
**Errol Hassell Elementary** -- Sue Shade  
**Evergreen Middle** -- Amy Wilson  
**Fairfield Elementary** -- Anne Donahue  
**Fairview Elementary** -- Freda Sherburne  
**Forest Grove Community** -- Amy Wilson  
**Fort Independence** -- Eileen Stapp  
**Hazelgreen Elementary** -- Jodie Hoogendam  
**Holy Family Catholic School** -- Freda Sherburne  
**Hilda Lahti Elementary** -- Darol Funk  
**Kelso Elementary** -- Eileen Stapp  
**Lake Oswego Middle** -- Eileen Stapp  
**Mary Woodward Elementary** -- Freda Sherburne  
**McKay Elementary** -- Sue Shade

**Meadow Park Middle** -- Sue Shade  
**Nancy Ryles Elementary** -- Sue Shade  
**Oak Hill School** -- Sarah Grimm  
**Oregon Episcopal** -- Amy Wilson  
**Oregon Trail Elementary** -- Eileen Stapp  
**Ridgewood Elementary** -- Sue Shade  
**Spencer Butte Middle** -- Anne Donahue  
**Sunrise Middle** -- Eileen Stapp  
**Talent Elementary** -- Risa Buck  
**Tumalo Community** -- Denise Rowcroft  
**West Tualatin View Elementary** -- Sue Shade

### MERIT

**Archbishop Howard** -- Freda Sherburne  
**Hammond Elementary** -- Kelley Cooley  
**Pleasant Hill Middle** -- Sarah Grimm  
**Shaver Elementary** -- Freda Sherburne

### PREMIER

**Powell Valley Grade** -- Jan Rankin  
**Territorial Elementary School** -- Sarah Grimm

## Better Living Show Lets Oregon Green Schools Shine

By Heath Keirstead

Oregon Green Schools was delighted to participate in The Energy Trust *Better Living Show* held at Portland's Expo Center this spring. The free, low-impact event was fun and educational for the whole family and hosted over 20,000 attendees. It provided a wonderful opportunity for Green Schools to attract new member schools and let the community know about all the earth-friendly actions our schools are already taking.

Oregon Green Schools Association was a natural fit with all the green products and services represented at *The Better Living Show*. OGSA was generously granted two display areas at the show by its organizer, Blue Ocean Events. Our new display ensemble with brochures and newsletters dominated the smaller area, and fifteen tri-fold displays from member Oregon Green Schools filled the larger area.

Visitors to the OGSA booths were able to chat with OGSA booth staffers Jan Rankin, Julie Jackson & Heath Keirstead (OGSA Board), Cassidy Sullivan (OGSA Coordinator), Lory Albright, Lani Schreiber, and Jane Sandau, (Mabel Rush Elementary School), and Helen Vank (Shaver Elementary School).

Special THANKS to Michael O'Loughlin and Stephanie Frisch from Blue Ocean Events for making our participation possible.



OGSA Board Chair Jan Rankin interacts with young visitors at the Better Living Show

## We asked, “How did your school celebrate Earth Day?” Here’s what you told us:



*Lincoln High's hallway plastic bottle use display*

### Lincoln High School's Observance

*By Robin Jensen*

In observance of Earth Day, Tues, April 22, the Lincoln High School GreensClub sponsored several activities for the week. Among them were the “unveiling” of new green hallway recycling bins. The new receptacles, made by students at Meek ProTech High School, have two openings -- one for paper and one for cans and bottles. A display was placed in the main hall, representing the estimated number of plastic bottles that Lincoln students use in a period of two days - over 5,200!! GreensClub members hope to reinvigorate the recycling effort at Lincoln with the new, attractive recycling containers.

### Butler Creek Elementary Students Get Their Hands Dirty on Earth Day!

*By Kate MacMillan, library/media specialist*

As a culmination of Green Team activities this year, we planted a native tree and plants in an area adjacent to the school that was previously only covered with grass and rarely used. The goal is to turn the area into a “green space” that is more inviting for use as a recreational and instructional area.

### Earth Day at Ewing Young Elementary

*By Stephanie Sayles, 1<sup>st</sup>/2<sup>nd</sup> grade teacher*



We celebrated Earth Day in my 1<sup>st</sup> and 2nd blended classroom by studying what resources are renewable and nonrenewable. We looked at a big poster showing a web of natural resources. The kids then made their own "wall hanging" of natural resources. They had a list of products (they had to learn what a “product” was, too!) and had to match them with the correct natural resource they came from, e.g., clay is from soil.

We also played Earth Day Bingo, which is a bingo game with recyclable products instead of numbers. The kids learned a lot about our natural resources and were able to bring home material and knowledge to their families.

Actually, we celebrate Earth Day *every* day with our organic garden beds and tumbling composter!



*Butler Creek Students planting trees*



## Deep Creek Elementary “GOES APE” over Earth Day!

By Samantha Salvitelli,  
3<sup>rd</sup> grade teacher

Each year, Earth Day at Deep Creek Elementary School turns into Earth WEEK! This year was no exception. The focus for our Earth Week was inspired by one of our 3rd grade students, Johanna Hampton. Johanna has a love for animals, especially orangutans. Johanna contacted the Oregon Zoo about how she could help the orangutans, and soon she became a local ambassador for the endangered species. Therefore, our theme became a focus on endangered species.

The week was kicked off with an assembly by the Oregon Zoo about the endangered orangutans and the upcoming new exhibit. The students then were invited to participate in gathering endangered species facts to post on a world map and creating endangered species art made out of recyclable materials. Many students became so interested in endangered species, that they went to various websites and found ways to help the species of their choice. Many donations and virtual adoptions were made by Deep Creek students. The week ended with a family film night to raise money for the Oregon Zoo. Over 100 people attended this community event and \$1200 was raised.



2<sup>nd</sup> grade student Savannah Smith used old boxes and wrappers to create this recycled art picturing the endangered blue whale.

## Hollydale Elementary Spreads Cheer



Richelle Wuethrich's 5<sup>th</sup> grade students delivered potted planters to random houses in their community with the message, "Happy Earth Day!"

## Salem-Keizer Schools “Hitch a Ride”

By Kat Hill

The Salem Area Mass Transit District (Charriots) held its fifth annual Car Free Day on Earth Day, April 22nd. This event teaches middle and high school students how to ride the bus; how smart transportation choices positively affect our environment; and how being active is beneficial for our health. This year's theme was *MOVE IT!*

Classes from all over the Salem-Keizer area scheduled field trips to locations that supported their classroom curriculum while both students and teachers learned a valuable lesson in how to use public transportation for normal daily trips. Total ridership for Car Free Day was 23,723, which is 23% more than the average weekday for April. This represented about 5,000 student rides!

West Salem High School, an Oregon Green School, won \$1,000 for the most scheduled field trips taken (8). Students participating in the program entered to win one of 1,400 great prizes provided by 52 local businesses. Michael Courser of Claggett Creek Middle School won the drawing for the Wii. He researched how to ride the bus to school by visiting the Charriots web site. On Car Free Day, he caught the bus near his house and rode to the stop nearest his school. That effort proved to be fruitful!

## Clackamas County Green Schools Celebrate Earth Day

By Eileen Stapp

Here are the highlights:

- Fourth and fifth graders from eight OGSA schools participated in the *Celebrating Water* event at Clackamas Community College. **Clackamas High School** students assisted with activities.
- **Pacific Northwest Academy** cleaned up, harvested composted, improved garden beds and planted.
- **Ackerman Middle School** in Canby enjoyed an Earth Day assembly put on by the 6-week Green School elective class, including a Power Point presentation, fun follow-up activities, and re-used banners throughout the school.
- **Kelso Elementary's** green team staff members put on a creative and informative skit at their OGSA award assembly.
- West Linn/Wilsonville Schools (**Boone's Ferry, Boeckman Creek, Stafford, Athey Creek, Rosemont Ridge, Wilsonville High, West Linn High, Wood Middle, and Cedar Oak Park**) all had visits from and activities with Jane Goodall, connected to their work in the Roots and Shoots program and CREST (Center for Research in Environmental Sciences and Technologies) Center in Wilsonville.

## M.I.T.C.H. Charter School Students Design "Dream Garden"

By Elisabeth Frank

The MITCH "Green Team" started the year with several meetings for interested students. Almost every student chose to miss some precious recess time to discuss ways to make our school greener. The issues they decided to focus on were: saving electricity by turning off lights and saving water by being conscious of water usage when washing hands. Another way MITCH kids have been conserving resources is that they bring re-usable lunch containers for lunches as Ms. Sherburne from Metro taught them. They collect compost for the school garden at every lunch. They are currently involved in a design contest for the school garden. After measuring the dimensions of the garden, the 4th and 5th graders will create scale drawings of their "dream garden" design.



*M.I.T.C.H. Green Team composts.*



## Centennial Earth Club Members Show Athletes How It's Done Right!

By Jan Rankin

A massive effort to recycle bottles and cans at the annual Centennial Invitational Track and Field Meet topped off a week of Earth Day activities at the high school. As a result, 1,000 athletes from 48 Pacific Northwest high schools and their supporters recycled approximately 3,000 bottles & cans and learned that recycling at such an event might be possible in their own communities.

## McCarty Community Volunteers Lend a Hand

By Annette Ripplinger, 6<sup>th</sup> grade teacher

McCarty Middle School in the Gresham-Barlow School District conducted a spring clean-up on their school grounds and in their school garden to celebrate Earth Day. Fifty community volunteers planted drought-tolerant plants, spread filbert shell mulch and added decorative stones. And the good news is -- everyone is ready to continue these efforts in the fall with a major planting of spring bulbs!



## East Orient Elementary Students Really Cleaned Up!

By Mandy Bhear, 1<sup>st</sup> grade teacher

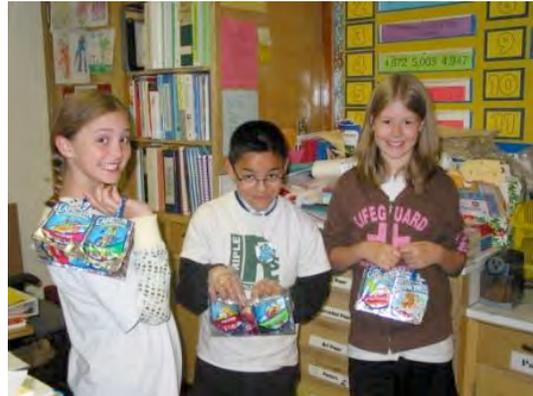
My 1st grade students and I put together some Earth Day activities to help clean up our school and beautify our nature area. Some students picked up garbage while others planted plants, made bird feeders (out of plastic water bottles) and built a birdhouse!



East Orient students help the birds.

## Earth Day 2008

By Brandi, Lynch View 4<sup>th</sup> grader & Triple R's member



Triple R's with their Capri treasures.

The Triple R's (environmental club) decided to do an Earth Day project, because they found out that juice pouches were taking about 80-1,000 years to decompose in a landfill. They needed to find out a way to save these juice pouches from ending up in the environment.

A friend of the Triple R's found a cool way to turn this trash into "treasure." The Triple R's members all decided that they would each go around in partners to every classroom, talk to the students and tell them how they could turn the "trash" into "treasures." The lady who made these "treasures," Mrs. Lemcke, let them take examples of bags, purses, and wallets (that she made) around to the classrooms also.

Lynch View School saved the earth, because they kept a lot of juice pouches out of the landfill. Now you may see Lynch View students walking around with bags, purses, and wallets made out of juice pouches. All because of what the Triple R's and Mrs. Lemcke did for the environment and the earth!

## Mabel Rush Elementary – Moving Forward

By Lory Albright

Mabel Rush Elementary is celebrating spring with a new staff room composting program and enhanced recycling at the teachers' fingertips. Clear signs label all of our containers and teachers easily adapted to the program. It is one small step in the right direction! Next up is the No Idle Zone observations and data collection to stimulate healthier decisions by parents picking up students. Our 4th and 5th graders will be working on that this spring!



Oregon Green Schools Association  
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Sweet Home, OR 97386

***It's Not Cool To Idle at School!***

With Oregon Environmental Council's newly designed *It's Not Cool to Idle at School!* toolkit, students can now help reduce air pollution around their school. The toolkit is used as a resource to begin engaging students, faculty and staff, and especially parents dropping off and picking up their students at school. It contains an observation sheet and calculation sheet for in-class time where students can learn more about some of the different types of pollutants emitted by vehicle exhaust. The kit also includes little known facts and dispells many idling myths. Featured are newly designed pledge medallions which can be hung on the rear view mirror as a reminder for people that: *It's Not Cool to Idle at School!* For more information or a free *It's Not Cool to Idle at School!* toolkit, call Lily Guajardo at 503.222.1963 x115 or email [volunteer@oeonline.org](mailto:volunteer@oeonline.org). The toolkit is also available online at [www.oeonline.org/kidshealth/schools](http://www.oeonline.org/kidshealth/schools).

**When considering fund raising,  
Why not go "Green?"**

There are a number of earth-friendly options to consider when your schools is looking at fund raising possibilities -- and if your school is in the Portland or Eugene area, *Chinook Book* is among them.

According to *Chinook Book* representative Sally Hall, valuable discount coupons in the book enable folks to explore their community while supporting local, sustainable businesses. Their fundraiser program is flexible and easy to administer with no up-front costs.

To find out more, contact Sally @ [sally.hall@ecometro.com](mailto:sally.hall@ecometro.com), 503-222-7400 or visit their websites [www.ecometro.com/portland/fundraise](http://www.ecometro.com/portland/fundraise) and [www.ecometro.com/eugene/fundraise](http://www.ecometro.com/eugene/fundraise)

**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

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**Thank You!**

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