



Oregon Green Schools newsletter

Oregon Green Schools Newsletter Volume 5, Number 2 Spring 2006

Would you like to receive this newsletter by email? We'll be piloting an email newsletter in the next edition. Send an email to greenschoolin@yahoo.com with the subject "enews" and we'll put you on the list!

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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.

Oregon Students "Follow the Rainbow to a Greener World"

By Anne Donahue

Oregon Green Schools from across the state sent their students, teachers and recycling educators to the 10th Annual Oregon Green Schools Summit hosted by Willamette High School on March 17th in Eugene. In cars, busses and vans, they "Followed the Rainbow to a Greener World" and learned the many ways to conserve school resources to create a greener school, community and world.



Students poring over a model of a watershed



Chapman Hill's "Composting" exhibit

The day started with an inspiring presentation by Jo Rodgers, Recycling Educator from BRING Recycling, to a full house of nearly 400 representatives from 68 schools. Students brought school displays showcasing their school programs, and exhibitors were on hand throughout the day to encourage greater resource conservation. Alex Cuyler, Chair of the Association of Oregon

Recyclers spoke at lunch about empowering each student to make a difference greening our world.

Students attended educational sessions centered on resource conservation themes. Student favorites included the Oregon Green School showcase, paper-making, waste audits, worm bin composting, Recycle Jeopardy, and Watt Watchers. Other sessions focused on maximizing school recycling, creating school gardens and wildlife areas,



A Watt Watchers session!

continued on p. 4

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Notes from the Board

Regional Coordinator's training at Association of Oregon Recyclers Conference – Coordinators, be sure to join us at the Valley River Inn on Thursday, June 22 from 4:30-6:30 p.m. Snacks and beverages are provided! Get to know your fellow Coordinators from around the state, receive updates and provide input on the OGS program. For location details and to RSVP, contact Eileen Stapp at eileens@co.clackamas.or.us or 503-353-4454. To register for the AOR conference, contact Patty Morgan, 503-233-8633, www.aorr.org. Prices for the Education conference are \$35-90.

Incentive grants – Are you a new or renewing Green School? Need cash for a waste prevention or recycling project? Check with your coordinator to see if you are eligible for a \$300 incentive grant from Oregon Green Schools! You can find out more about this program at www.oregongreenschools.org/incentive_award.cfm.

OGS was awarded the “**Kudos From Kettle Chips Award**” for the month of March. The letter from Kettle Chips states: “This award honors organizations that we feel have gone above and beyond in making our world a better place. We chose Oregon Green School Association for this month's award because of your innovative and resourceful program in Oregon's schools.

Please accept this gift basket of Kettle brand products as our way of saying ‘kudos from Kettle chips,’ and we thank you for providing a great example to our schools' teachers, students and staff of how to tread a little lighter on our planet.”

We will use the chips at the Coordinator training at AOR this June. Thank you, Kettle Chips!

Grants for School Programs

Grants to Build an Outdoor Classroom at Your School

Lowes' Charitable and Educational Foundation, International Paper, and National Geographic Explorer! classroom magazine outdoor classroom grant program to help schools improve their science curriculum by engaging students in hands-on experiences outside the traditional classroom. Grants up to \$2,000 will be awarded to at least 100 schools and grants for up to \$20,000 may be awarded to schools or school districts with major outdoor classroom

projects. Proposals are reviewed three times a year.

<http://eelink.net/cgi-bin/ee-link/newclick/443139>

Captain Planet Foundation

2006 Application Deadlines: June 30, Sept. 30, Dec. 31

Captain Planet Foundation awards are between \$500 and \$2,500 for schools and nonprofit organizations that develop innovative environmental projects for youth that promote cooperation, planning, and problem-solving skills.

<http://eelink.net/cgi-bin/ee-link/newclick/443141>

Welcome to New Green Schools!

Oregon Green School Association congratulates the following new and renewing Green Schools and their OGS coordinators:

Green Schools

Brush College Elementary – Kelley Cary
Butler Creek Elementary – Jan Rankin
Cedar Park Middle School – Sue Shade
Clackamas High School – Eileen Stapp
Clarendon Elementary – Nancy Bond, Jane-Clair Kerin and Lacey Collins
Damascus Middle School – Eileen Stapp
East Elementary – Kathy Schwinck
Englewood Elementary – Kelley Cary
Harold Oliver Intermediate
Harritt Elementary – Kelley Cary
McKinley Elementary (Beaverton) – Sue Shade
McKinley Elementary (Salem) – Kelley Cary
Metropolitan Learning Center – Nancy Bond, Jane-Clair Kerin, Lacey Collins
Newby Elementary – Dave Larmouth
North Clackamas Christian School – Eileen Stapp
Northwest Academy

Oak Hills Elementary – Sue Shade
Rosemont Ridge Middle School – Eileen Stapp
St. Paul Elementary – Bailey Payne & Heidi Liedtke
Sumpter Elementary – Kelley Cary
Terra Linda Elementary – Sue Shade
West Linn High School – Eileen Stapp
West Orient Middle School – Jan Rankin
West Salem High School – Kelley Cary
Whiteaker Middle School – Kelley Cary
Whitford Middle School – Sue Shade
Wood Middle School – Eileen Stapp
Woodstock Elementary – Nancy Bond, Jane-Clair Kerin and Lacey Collins
Yoshikai Elementary – Kelley Cary

Merit School: Southridge High School - Sue Shade

Premier School: Harold Oliver Primary

Gresham-Barlow School District first organization in the nation to receive EPA's ENERGY STAR award

District's schools use 40 percent less energy than others nationwide

The Gresham-Barlow School District is the first organization in the nation to be awarded the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) ENERGY STAR Leader award. The district received the award after improving the average energy efficiency of all its buildings by 30 percent over their baseline and raising the average efficiency of all their buildings to the top twenty-five percentile on EPA's Energy Performance Rating System.

Schools in the district use about 40 percent less energy than the national average for K-12 school buildings. That means it will cost the district about 40 percent less to heat, cool, and light the buildings than average schools in the area. Using less energy also reduces the amount of greenhouse gases and other environmental impacts associated with energy generation.

"We are fortunate to have the people and institutions in this region that demonstrate the leadership and commitment Superintendent Noah, his staff and students, have shown in achieving these outstanding energy efficiency results," said



Michael Bogert, EPA Region 10 Administrator. "They are not only saving funds that will support education, they are helping to conserve our water and keep our air clean now and into the future."

Because of the district's energy conservation efforts, 12 of 20 schools in the district have earned the prestigious ENERGY STAR distinction. These awards are similar to the widely-recognized ENERGY STAR label on household appliances and signify superior energy efficiency. Each of the 12 schools outperforms similar buildings in the nation by at least 25 points (on a 100 point scale) on the EPA's Energy Performance Rating System.

The school district has aggressively worked to identify and implement measures to reduce energy since 1999. The district's Resource Conservation Management (RCM) program has saved a total of \$4.3 million over 6 years and avoided utility costs of \$1.1 million last year. Last year's savings alone represent the salaries of approximately 22 teaching positions.

Art show proves there's nothing new under the sun!

By Anne Donahue

Eugene Green School **Corridor Elementary** held its first ever "Reused Art Show" on April 28th. Students in grades 1st to 5th worked to produce a gymnasium full of collages, jewelry, flower bouquets, sun-catchers, cardboard critters, and games, all made from reused or discarded materials.

In addition, students learned "reused dance steps" from bygone eras, and along with the Earth Choir, performed



A young artist displays his work

for parents during the event.

Students used technology to produce Key-note slide shows on computers. Students produced pictures using digital cameras to highlight earth friendly practices. Even the music used to accompany the slide shows was recorded from the school's Earth Choir. Turnout for the event was fabulous. Parents, students and school staff enjoyed this unique opportunity to rethink their use of energy and resources.

Summit, continued from p. 1

modernizing Oregon's bottle bill, sustainable agriculture, electronics recycling, watershed protection, polystyrene recycling, adult and teen roundtables, giant but lovable bugs, and a real favorite... electric car racing by Willamette High's very own racing team.



Cheerful student volunteers

The day would not have been possible without the help of all the Oregon Green School Coordinators

who planned the event. A special thank you goes to Willamette High's Ecology Class volunteers for their help before, during and after the Summit. Bethel School District Catering Services provided a delicious and healthy breakfast and lunch on washable service-ware, and all food waste and soiled paper was composted after the event.

The Summit finale was "The Magic of Recycling" by magician Steffan Soule. Students were awed and educated as they "assisted" him in many of his magic tricks, each tied to a recycling message and theme.

Door prizes by coordinators, exhibitors and summit sponsors made it possible for everyone to take home a special gift to remember the day.

Many attendees were treated to rainbows in the sky on their way home from the Summit, and left knowing that the real pot of gold at the end of their rainbow was their school, their home, their community and this planet we call home.



MECCA workshop presenters Sue Shade and Sarah Grimm

Here are some comments from teachers and students attending the Summit

Teachers:

"I was pleased to see so many young people informed and involved as presenters!"

"Our school has attended the Green Schools Summit before but this was a first time for me. I was very impressed. Excellent sessions and enthusiasm. Thanks to all for their efforts!"

Summit, continued from p. 4

“A fantastic event which inspired me and the kids to get excited about being a Green School and gave us great ideas about how to become a Merit school. Wonderful all around, I loved that the kids went to session on their own. Great, great, great day! Thank you all so much!”

“I love the inspiration, sharing, and positive focus of this event.”

“It is great to be a part of something grand!”

Students said:

“I thought this was great. I want to come next year.”

“I loved this summit because there were so many fun activities”

“This is one of the best field trip I have ever been to, it was awesome!”

“Thank you for a great day of fun and learning, I hope I get to come back again!”



A BIG THANKS TO OUR SUMMIT SPONSORS!!!

With special thanks to WILLAMETTE HIGH SCHOOL, our Summit Host, and to WHS student volunteers from David Novak's Ecology class.

Summit Activities Sponsors

Oregon Refuse and Recycling Association
Oregon DEQ
Nike
Far West Fibers
City of Portland, Office of Sustainable Development

Arrow Sanitary
City of Eugene
Metro
Clackamas County
Marion County
Toyota Logistics

SP Recycling
City of Gresham
Lane Forest Products
Douglas County
Container Recovery
Cloudburst Recycling

School Sponsors

Allied Waste/Capitol Recycling
Arrow Sanitary/WCI
B & J Garbage Company
City Sanitary Service
Corvallis Disposal Co./Allied Waste
EcoSystems Transfer & Recycling
Gresham Sanitary Service
High Country Disposal
Hudson Garbage Service/WCI
MVS and Recycling Services

North Douglas Sanitary Service
North Marion Recycling and Disposal
Newberg Garbage Service
Oregon City Garbage/B & B Leasing
Oregon Green Schools Association
Pacific Sanitation
Rockwood Solid Waste
Roseburg Disposal Company

Sanipac
Suburban Garbage Service
The Dalles Disposal Service/WCI
Twelve Mile Disposal
United Disposal Service/Allied Waste
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And thanks to the 2005-06 Friends of Oregon Green Schools

Metro
Eileen Stapp
Freda Sherburne

Joe Cawley
Tonerinx
Anne Donahue

Jan Rankin
Far West Fibers
Marion County

Every Day Is Earth Day at Sellwood Middle School

By Marnie McPhee, marniemcph@aol.com

Why not make Earth Day stretch into a week, or, better yet, the whole year – every year? That’s exactly what Sellwood Middle School students are doing. Earnest and dedicated, these youths are committed to improving their school and larger community.

Sellwood’s can-do environmental spirit was nurtured by a beloved former custodian, Clyde Chamberlain, who worked at the school from 1994 to 2000, and started teaching the sixth-, seventh- and eighth-graders at the Southeast Portland school about the “three R’s” of resource conservation – Reduce, Reuse and Recycle. Chamberlain trained everyone at the school to use less and take care of more. “I did it because I believe in this stuff,” he says. “Everyone needs to know they can make a difference.”

His legacy embedded a resource-conservation ethic at the school that has made it one of the most environmentally active in Oregon. In 2004, the Oregon Department of Environmental Quality awarded Sellwood its Waste Reduction Awareness Program (WRAP) Award for Middle Schools. In 2005, these efforts earned Sellwood another top award: recognition as one of Oregon’s 22 Premier (top-level) Oregon Green Schools (see www.oregongreenschools.org). More accolades flow in regularly.

Sellwood is working hard to go even further, and become a “zero waste school.”

Parents have supported the program from the get-go. For the past five years, Sellwood’s PTA paid \$5,000 to fund a full-time onsite AmeriCorps member who championed Chamberlain’s vision. However, this year they decided to focus on other school priorities, so the school taps the AmeriCorps members who work with the district’s Resource Conservation Program.

Chamberlain’s legacy endures. It’s visible in the school’s active participation in Resource Conservation Program-sponsored projects, and in the abundant innovations that Sellwood students, staff, parents and community members have initiated on their own.

Foremost, they’ve formed a Make a Difference (MAD) club, whose 15-25 members are active! Here’s just a sample of the programs they’ve invented to keep the school on the green path.

• **“Waste-free lunch kits”:** Students have used a grant from Metro to launch this program. In just one year, 60 students (about 10 percent of the school’s student body) have bought these \$2.50 insulated lunch kits that contain reusable cloth napkins, silverware, a bottle and a plastic food container. The program is promoted most actively to sixth-graders, to foster long-term change at the school. Students at other schools are buying the kits, too.

• **Worm composting:** Every Wednesday, MAD kids take about 25-30 pounds of kitchen scraps to the school’s red wriggler worms, which quickly convert the food waste into a rich soil nutrient called “worm castings.” The students incorporate these into the student-built, all-organic garden beds that math teacher Heidi Perry and students maintain all spring, summer and fall. “We get great tomatoes, lettuce, Swiss chard – and more!” Perry exclaims. “Any food we can’t give to students and their families, we share with school staff.”

• **Clothing and old tennis shoe collections:** Students have collected coats to be washed and reused by others in the community. They’ve also donated piles of old tennis shoes to Nike, which grinds them up and turns them into track and playground surfaces.

• **Annual waste audits:** In the fall, students go “dumpster diving” with the district’s Resource Conservation Coordinator. These fun and educational – if slightly messy – adventures involve sorting through and weighing the school’s trash and recyclables for a week. The project becomes a real-world math problem – and also reveals what the school is using, reusing and throwing away. After the numbers are in, students determine how to cut waste even more.

• **Energy savings/renewable energy:** Through the district’s student-run energy-monitoring Power Patrol program, students act as “energy police.” They give “tickets” to classrooms that are not using energy wisely, and thank-you notes to those that are doing a terrific job. The school also is one of five participating in the district’s Energy Challenge program. These schools have spent the year working to cut their school’s annual energy use by at least 5 percent.

• **Paper conservation:** Every classroom has a paper recycling bin and a box for collecting one-sided copies that then are printed on the blank side, or converted by MAD into yarn-bound notepads. MAD also posts notes in school bathrooms to remind students to use as few paper towels as possible.

• **Field trips to the School and Community Reuse Action Project:** Students visit SCRAP (www.scrapaction.org) to learn the latest “3R” tips.

Students also take their messages of environmental stewardship into the community. It’s part of the Premier Oregon Green School program, and it’s the Sellwood way. In the fall, the school’s students host a mini-conference for other PPS elementary and middle school

Best Practices Workshop Draws Custodians from 35 Schools

By Eileen Stapp

On Tuesday, March 28th, school custodians and facilities personnel from throughout Clackamas County gathered at Clackamas High School for the Custodians' Best Practices Workshop conducted by Clackamas County Recycling Partnership. The LEED certified Clackamas High building, with its environmentally innovative design components, provided the perfect venue for the day's activities.

The forty-six custodians, maintenance technicians and grounds people attending represented thirty-five schools in five school districts. They learned about the potential effects of toxic cleaning products and safer alternatives, how and what to dispose of as hazardous waste and the need for a conditionally exempt generator's permit, energy and water saving tips and the benefits of waste reduction and recycling to their schools. In addition, they found out about our event/cafeteria/sports fields recycling program with free containers provided by Clackamas County. They also learned how the Oregon Green Schools program could serve as a road map for developing a comprehensive school resource conservation program and give them the recognition they deserve.



They had an opportunity to voice their concerns and get their questions answered at the round table and to develop connections with others doing similar work. They were able to get their schools' names among the first group on the list for distribution of free plastic recycling

containers in August and learn of other available resources. They took helpful new information back to their schools along with a recycled bicycle part key chain and a reusable plastic mug for each participant.

We extend a huge thank you to our generous contributors: CCRRA (Clackamas county's franchised garbage and recycling haulers),

Portland Recycling Team, Clackamas County Community Environment Section, NC-12 facilities department, Coastwide Laboratories, Metro Household Hazardous Waste Facility, Metro Paint, Wichita Feed and Hardware, The Tool Peddler, Great Harvest, Oregon Green Schools and, especially, Clackamas High School and its helpful custodial staff, led by Lowell Slama.

Sellwood Middle School, continued

students, parents and the community, to showcase Sellwood's programs, and other resource conservation options. They teach energy games, make presentations about the 3Rs, and show kids how to build and maintain worm bins. They also teach adults about the Oregon Green School program, and how to engage their kids' school so they can get certified.

And that's not all! Students make other community presentations; help bag and carry groceries for senior citizens at a local grocery store; and yank invasive nonnative species, plant native trees and study wildlife in local parks, such as Oaks Bottom.

Sellwood celebrated with an Earth Day Fair in Sellwood Park Saturday, April 22, with music by the school's superb

marimba band. During the rest of Earth Week (April 17-21), Sellwood Middle School students wore green clothing (particularly flamboyant stuff they discovered in thrift stores), picked up trash on school grounds, washed the school's windows and weeded the garden beds.

"All of these activities create a positive environment around the school," Perry explains. "And, these students are learning lifelong skills they will use in their homes and community. I see evidence of that, in hundreds of actions these kids take every day, and in their creativity and commitment. I'm so proud to work with them. They invigorate me!"

Congratulations to an outstanding Premier School!

Oregon Green Schools newsletter



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Return Service Requested

Be a friend to Oregon Green Schools!



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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