



Oregon Green Schools newsletter

Oregon Green Schools Newsletter

Volume 2, Number 1

Winter 2003

Welcome!

The Oregon Green Schools Association has created this newsletter to keep you informed about Green School happenings around the state.

Your contributions are needed! Let us know about your events and activities, so we can include them in a future newsletter.

What's inside?

Board of Directors

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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 community.

recycled content paper - 30% post-consumer



Students creatively describing their school's program for the Green Schools Showcase. You can see more great Summit photos on our website at www.oregongreenschools.org.

Reaching the Summit

Stacy Allison, the first American woman to reach the summit of Mt. Everest, provided inspiration and motivation to 264 participants from 44 schools at the seventh annual Oregon Green Schools Summit on November 2, 2002. Students and adults came away with a message of how maintaining a positive attitude in the face of obstacles and acting on their dreams can help them reach their goals.

By sharing her experience on the world's highest mountain, Allison compared the efforts of her climbing team to the efforts of students and staff involved in waste reduction at their schools. Green Schools can find success by remaining committed to their mission, capitalizing on the strengths of team members and using information and skills gained at events like the Green Schools Summit.

This year's Summit, held at Centennial Middle School, provided information, skills and inspiration to participants through exhibits and breakout sessions. Each of the sixteen different sessions targeted a specific audience of younger students, teens or adults. Adults had the opportunity to learn the details of grant-

writing and to share successes, problems and solutions at a roundtable session. Teen-oriented topics ranged from career and volunteer opportunities to strategies for recycling at events such as dances or sporting events. Younger students were engaged in hands-on activities such as paper making, worm composting and conducting waste audits.

Favorites this year included *Recycling Family Feud*, a gameshow-style presentation that tested participant knowledge on natural resources and recycling. Also popular was the *Green School Showcase*, where students from three schools honed their speaking skills as they used speeches, visual arts and drama to present information about their programs.

Big thanks to: Centennial Middle School staff for graciously sharing their classrooms and facilities with Summit participants; waste haulers for providing the scholarships that allowed their schools to attend, Summit sponsors and the Summit planning committee.

Also many thanks to Dan Prince, Metro, for contributing to this article!

Oregon Green School Board of Directors

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What's new on the web?

Check out the website for upcoming events, premier profiles, who's who in Green Schools and more.

We'd like to read about your school too! Send your school profiles and corrections to: Dave Larmouth at dlarmouth@keoffice.com.



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Highlights from great school programs

Terrebonne

Elementary, Terrebonne, became a green school in June 2002. Welcome and congratulations! Several classes are participating in the EarthSmart Kids program and are gearing up to start worm composting in their classrooms. The students plan to share their success in diverting food waste from the garbage with other classes as part of the ongoing educational outreach of the Green School program.

Jessica Born, GS coordinator, raved about the creative reuse of old boxes at Terrebonne recently. Students studying Native Americans used old pizza boxes to make their own personality shields and proudly displayed them along the school walls. They were so crafty, Jessica almost didn't notice the art was from reused materials!

Mountain View

Middle, Newberg, renewed its Green School status and plans to become a Merit school by the end of the school year. School recycling coordinator Bob Kaltwasser revived a large worm bin and students are now monitoring food scrap collection in the cafeteria. The worm bin is housed in a green house, where Kaltwasser reused hundreds of milk jugs filled with water to regulate the temperature.

The school's recycling team is helping neighboring Mabel Rush Elementary by assisting three 2nd grade classrooms in conducting their own waste audits and helping the school reach Green School status.

A new goal is to reduce water consumption by reducing the frequency of the auto-flush timers in the school's bathrooms. Currently they flush once every five minutes!

NEWS from the OGSA BOARD:

Maintaining your Green School status just became easier! The Oregon Green Schools Board of Directors voted this fall to have Green School certification last for three years instead of two. Check with your local coordinator to see when you have to renew next.

Revised Oregon Green Schools Application is ready to use. The new application should be easier to fill out with lots of added space. There is also space now to enter water and energy conservation efforts. This is part of OGSA's goal to include water and energy in our resource conservation efforts. The Merit and Premier applications will be revised to include the new resource conservation criteria soon.

Oregon Green Schools featured coordinator: Jan Rankin



Jan Rankin (4th from left) with Gresham-Barlow district resource conservation committee.

It's no surprise that waste reduction and recycling programs are thriving in Gresham schools – Jan Rankin is their Green School Coordinator! Jan has been the Schools Recycling Coordinator for the City of Gresham for seven years. In that time, Jan was AOR Individual Recycler of the year for 1998, she received AOR's Education/Promotion Program of the year award for 1997 (along with Eileen Stapp and Paul Seitz), Centennial District became the first all Green Schools district, and she became a doting grandmother.

As a native Oregonian, Jan was raised to save everything, waste nothing, appreciate and preserve the beauty of nature! As a parent volunteer in Pleasant Valley Elementary, she put her values to work as the school's recycling coordinator. This led her to a position with the Gresham waste hauler's organization and eventually with the City of Gresham.

Before he became too big to transport, Merkle, the family pig, would

come to schools with Jan and help with waste audits. It's not hard to imagine the attention she could command with a pig sniffing around the garbage on the tarp! Now, Merkle's recycling role is "organic food composter." He readily chows down the scraps left over from school and community events, including this year's Green School Summit!

Jan's advice to new coordinators is to start small and keep it under control! "Flush out your supporters (the cream always rises to the top) and work on what makes the most difference with the least amount of effort, then build on your successes." Jan has done a good job taking her own advice; everyone who has worked with her can testify to her seemingly endless energy, creativity and dedication to waste reduction.

Jan's professional goals for this year include: keep it together, keep it in perspective, keep it real and put together the best Oregon Green Schools Summit possible! Thank you Jan – we're lucky to have you on our team!

UPCOMING EVENTS

Association of Oregon Recyclers
Annual Education Conference
June 19, 2003
Annual Conference & Trade Show
June 20-21, 2003

Valley River Inn, Eugene

Registration information available in April at: www.aorr.org

Educating Towards Sustainability!
EEAO's 2003 Conference
October 17-19, Eugene

The conference will focus on the role of environmental education in service learning and building a culture of sustainability in Oregon.

Educators will come together to share information, learn new skills, make professional contacts and explore collaborative opportunities through workshops, concurrent sessions, and field trips.

Registration information will be available spring 2003 at www.eeao.org. Contact EEAO at 503-234-EEAO to learn more about volunteer, exhibitor, and sponsorship opportunities.

Earth Day 2003

Do you have an Earth Day event planned? We would like to read about it in the next Green School newsletter! Write a summary and send it, along with photos, to Freda Sherburne at 600 NE Grand Ave, Portland OR 97232 or sherburnef@metro.dst.or.us.

Thank You!

Oregon Green Schools supporters and sponsors!

The following individuals and organizations made contributions to Oregon Green Schools in 2002. Supporters and sponsors automatically become Friends of Oregon Green Schools with their contributions.

Supporters

Oregon Refuse and Recycling Association
Oregon DEQ

Friends of OGSA

Bill Webber
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Steve Apotheker
Val Johnstone
Aloha Garbage Co.

Summit sponsors

Oregon Refuse and Recycling Assn., Far West Fibers, Waste Connections, Oregon DEQ, Metro, Marion Co. Solid Waste, Willamette Resources, Inc., City of Portland Solid Waste & Recycling Program, City of Gresham DES, Weyerhaeuser, Clackamas County, Robert and Kathryn Bunn.

Summit Scholarships

Albany-Lebanon Sanitation, B & J Garbage Co., Canby Disposal Co., Capitol Recycling and Disposal, Corvallis Disposal Co., Deines Brothers, Gresham Sanitary Service, High Country Disposal, Keller Drop Box, Loren's Sanitation Service, Mt. View Sanitary Service, Newberg Garbage Service, North Douglas Sanitary Service, Santiam Sanitary Service, Valley Recycling and Disposal.

Interesting websites to check out:

www.kinderart.com/recycle - Full of ideas for turning waste into works of art.

www.asa.org/educators/index.htm - Resources from Alliance to Save Energy.

www.dfe.cornell.edu/compost/schools.html - Lesson plans, labs, ideas for student research about composting.

www.nrdc.org/greensquad - Web-based tool for teaching kids (grades 5-8) about schools and environmental health.

www.deq.state.or.us/wmc/solwaste/edu.html - Educational resources from Oregon DEQ.

www.ignitingcreativeenergy.org - Energy Challenge and great links page.



Learning how to make hand-made recycled paper at the Summit.

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 annual membership fee for:

- \$5 Student \$25 Basic \$50 Merit
 \$100 Premier \$250 Best Friend \$_____ Other

Name _____

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Mail checks payable to:

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Thank You!

Contributions to The Oregon Green Schools Association are tax deductible