

PPS Resource Conservation

SAVE IT!

Fall 2009

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DaVinci Green Classroom Completed

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What once was a parking lot, then, a hole, and finally a construction zone is now daVinci's new high-performance classroom. The building is expected to be the first LEED Platinum, NetZero Energy public school classroom in the nation.

The building has solar panels to cover its energy needs but is most innovative in the way it uses passive systems to reduce the building's energy demand. One of the most cutting-edge of these improvements is the building's use of daylighting. A state of the art light-diffuser using sophisticated reflection, filtering, and refraction techniques keeps the space evenly and well lit throughout the day.

Another passive energy reduction feature is in the building's floors and walls. The concrete slab floor and thick, insulated walls act as temperature moderators. Excessive heat or cold that enters the building is absorbed into this insulation, instead of changing the temperature of the air. This will reduce the amount of energy needed to heat and cool the building. It will be so effective that the building doesn't even have a traditional air conditioner.

In fact, controlling the way air moves is a big part of the building's innovation. Automatically controlled vents allow cool air to come in at the bottom of the building and hot air to leave through the top. In cold months, the hot air escaping out the top will be used to warm cool air coming in.

The project is a showcase of green building design and will serve as a testing ground for many of these innovative systems. It will also serve as a much needed band room for daVinci, complete with 2 sound proof practice rooms and a state of the art sound system.

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This Year's AmeriCorps Members!

We are excited to welcome Aleta Mills as the new ECC. Aleta is entering her second term as a Northwest Service Academy AmeriCorps member. She spent this summer as a counselor for the Portland Environmental Engagement Program of the NWSA. Aleta is excited to share her passion for sustainability and energy conservation with the PPS community. Melissa Kerry, last year's ECC will be the Resource Conservation Coordinator this year. She will also be the Oregon Green School Coordinator.

*ECC and RCC's NEW approach
And How These Changes Will Effect You.*

Look for tons of exciting changes this year as both AmeriCorps position shift their focus from working with behavior change and educating students to facilities management. The goal of this shift is to normalize energy and resource conservation district wide. This is an exciting opportunity to identify the resource hog schools and create a conservation plan. Once the school is thoroughly surveyed, then a strategy will be developed that includes recommendations for pre-maintenance, technology, and education and behavior change. Resource hog schools will serve as a pilot and best practices will be applied district wide. It is a great opportunity to create more sustainable facilities while educating the occupants.

AmeriCorps Positions Shift Focus

Schools identified as Resource Hogs will be worked with more closely. The ECC will work primarily with custodians, principals, and business managers, while the RCC will support these efforts by providing assistance to teachers, parents, and students. By simultaneously working from the top down and the bottom up, the saving should help build a strong business case

PPS Conservation Website Plays Bigger Role

The PPS conservation website will play a huge role this year. Services the AmeriCorps have provided in the past. Check out PPS's Conservation website homepage

<http://facilities.pps.k12.or.us/.docs/pg/10516>

for updates on these developments and all your go-to information. *It will be updated monthly or more.*

Recycling Coordinators Who is your school RC?

Each school has a volunteer staff person acting as Recycling Coordinator (RC). Initially established as someone to take responsibility for implementing recycling programs the position has in many places expanded to include a wide variety of other behavior change related environmental projects.

Some RCs construct and manage gardens, some teach classes about sustainability, some do energy conservation activities, some host Earth Day events, some just do recycling; there is a wide variety of interest and engagement.

There will be 3 RC meetings this school year. We will be giving updates, sharing ideas, eating pizza, and giving away door prizes. Dates are TBA.

We are working on providing a list and contact info online. If you suspect your school does not have an RC and you would like to become one, or if you would like to support the work of your school's RC, please contact Melissa Kerry at mkerry@pps.k12.or.us.

Since this person is our liaison between the district and the school, it is ideal when this person is staff or present at the school on a regular basis.

Get Ready: The New Year!

It's no new revelation that the beginning of the school is the best time to set the tone for the rest of the year. So get those environmental programs off with a bang not a whimper!

It's never too early to get the Green Team together to start brainstorming. Imagine the impact if students are greeted on the first day with new signs encouraging conservation and some exciting environmental projects to get involved in.

We're really hoping to focus this year on broadening the reach of environmental programs. We hope that it can be a deeply integrated part of every school. Doing that means working with as many people as possible: other teachers, parents, principals, the custodian.

These are our three favorite projects for making an impact:

- ◇ Student Green Monitors – like a line leader, but for the environment! Each classroom can have a weekly assigned Green Monitor who makes sure lights are turned out and waste gets put in the right bin. This is a really great way to involve a big chunk of the school and give students responsibility for their actions.
- ◇ Reusable Silverware – PPS throws away thousands of plastic sporks everyday. All it takes to switch to reusable silverware is to collect enough to cover all your students. This is a big impact, and very visible, project! Work with Nutrition Services to get going. (Note: This requires a little infrastructure.)
- ◇ Boost recycling—by changing the lids. Try placing the top of a box (the kind 8 x 11 paper comes in) across your garbage can to collect recyclable paper OR create a smaller slot in your cans recycling bins by flipping the original top over (which is a long oval), cutting out two small squares of cardboard to glue on the two ends of the slot, turn back over and reposition the lid. The refashioned lid should have a slot which will make it a little larger than the size of a can or plastic bottle. The visual reminders will encourage students take a second glance at what they are throwing away and recycling. OR you can create a school wide competition for the best decorated recycling bins! Have fun!

Plan Your Year for Success!

Get yourself organized early. What are your goals this year for greening your school? What projects would you like to consider taking on? Check out <http://facilities.pps.k12.or.us/.docs/pg/10522> for a list that will help you decide if your school is ready for a particular project. In general, you will want to start with low hanging fruit and build on small successes. Not only will it help you get your feet wet and gain school wide support, it will also help you gain the support at the district level.

Other questions to consider are: Can you develop a calendar and planning dates for those important events? When do you want to conduct your waste audits? What ways are you going to measure and evaluate your program? Do you have a clear understanding of who is doing what? Did your school certify as an Oregon Green School over the summer and have an award ceremony to organize? In what ways can you educate and inform your school community about green programs going on at your school?

Mark these important dates on your calendar:

First/Second/Third Waste Audits: You decide, kick your year off right!
 First RC Meeting (tentative): Tuesday 10/27/09 4:30pm
 Second RC Meeting (tentative): Tuesday 1/12/09
 Third RC Meeting (tentative): Tuesday 4/13/09
 Oregon Green School Summit: TBA, usually March
 OGS Summit registration (sign up as soon as it opens!):
 OGS contacts will be emailed when registration opens and check OGSA website
 Earth Day Week: April 19-23
 Great Locker Clean Out: Last week of school

Recycling! Start the Year Right

Old habits die hard, so start with good ones! Starting school with an established system is absolutely key to getting students to recycle. If bins are readily available and clearly labeled from the beginning of the year, recycling will become a normal, regular part of their experience. A little time now can make a huge difference and save a lot of trouble down the line.

Take a moment before school starts to look at your system:

- Check on the location of bins
- Replace old bins: visit website for ordering procedures
- Make sure all bins are clearly labeled
- Ask teachers to talk to students about recycling

Start an awareness campaign with fliers and signs

Get more ideas and information from the website: <http://facilities.pps.k12.or.us/.docs/pg/11115>

Washable Tray Update

In the last 2 years 17 PPS schools have started using reusable plastic lunch trays instead of disposable polystyrene (Styrofoam). The program has prevented the need for production, transportation, and disposal of over 500,000 polystyrene trays. To make the program work, schools recruit volunteers—students, parents, staff, and community—to wash the reusable trays each day.



Sunnyside Environmental School
MLC Abernethy Elementary
Da Vinci Arts Middle
Chapman Elementary
Ainsworth Elementary
Glencoe Elementary
Buckman Elementary
West Sylvan Middle
Lewis Elementary
Skyline Elementary
Capitol Hill
Creative Science
Forest Park



For more information visit <http://facilities.pps.k12.or.us/.docs/pg/11121> or contact Nikole Williams in Nutrition Services.

GRANTS

Planet Connect \$1,000 Grants for innovative solutions to protect the environment.

High Schools are eligible. Visit www.planet-connect.org/planet-connect-grants

Due October 30th, 2009

Nature in Neighborhoods Capitol Grant Program through Metro.

Visit www.oregonmetro.gov/capitolgrants

Due November 2nd, 2009

Wind turbine at Skyline

Bonneville Environmental Foundation is planning to install a small scale wind turbine at Skyline Elementary. Similar to other small scale solar units that BEF has provided for six of our schools, the wind turbine will be hooked up to an interactive kiosk. The location and support for green initiatives makes Skyline a perfect candidate. The school has had many successes in creating a school environment that provides students the opportunity to learn about more sustainable models. The project dates are to be announced.

also visit

<http://www.b-e-f.org/solar4rschools/>

For teacher and student solar education resources.

