



# SAVE IT!

## Washable Trays

Permanent ware programs are being started around the district with the help of a Metro grant which purchased over 4,000 trays for PPS. These programs are possible thanks to volunteers who come in and wash the trays after each use.

At Lewis Elementary School parent volunteers, coordinated by fabulous Americorps member Julia Hamlin, are washing 200 trays as many as four days a week. At Abernethy parent volunteers and student helpers wash as many as 180 trays every day at lunch, with the stellar support of Vanessa Herald (pictured at right), who supervises each time a parent cannot come. Mary Morris at Da Vinci Arts Middle School leads the student Green Team who have volunteered and recruited more volunteers to initiate a completely student run washing program.

Due to the lack of funds in Nutrition Services to hire the labor to support this program, passionate environmentalists in our schools are stepping up, not only to challenge the use of Styrofoam in their schools, but doing the essential legwork to initiate and sustain washing programs. In March Chapman, Glencoe and Ainsworth Elementary Schools will begin replacing the Styrofoam with permanent ware. In April Buckman, West Sylvan and Skyline will begin washing programs.

The trays are district property on loan to the schools, on the condition that the program is sustained. This way we can track all the trays and make sure that

if they are falling out of use, or programs lose steam we can move trays to schools that will use them.

There are still thousands of trays available for schools interested in creating volunteer programs in the fall -see the criteria listed on the PPS Resource Conservation website at <http://www.facilities.pps.k12.or.us/.docs/pg/10516>. Cassidy is currently fielding interest from new schools. Contact her at [csulliv1@pps.k12.or.us](mailto:csulliv1@pps.k12.or.us), or at (503) 916-2000 ext. 4266.



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## Solar installation will put the “sun” into Sunnyside

This spring, Sunnyside Environmental School will be getting even sunnier thanks to a new solar installation.

Sunnyside will be Portland Public School’s sixth solar project, and the fifth project funded through Bonneville Environmental Foundation’s Solar 4 R Schools Program. Sunnyside will be seeing their new 1.1 kW system installed early this spring.

The solar installation will follow closely on the heels of the Energy Challenge, which is being spearheaded by the fifth graders at Sunnyside. These students have been working hard to eliminate wasted energy from their school. In this way, Sunnyside is providing a great example of how when it comes to renewable energy, we need efficiency first!

# Local High Schools Speak out about Climate Change

## Focus the Nation

Focus the Nation is a national day for Global Warming Education and Political Action. Participants this year included universities, colleges, high schools, faith groups and environmental organizations. All of the local colleges were represented at the culminating event at the University of Portland on January 31<sup>st</sup>. Our public high schools were invited to participate so Katie and I went on tour that day visiting schools that hosted their own events!

## Alliance MEEK Technical High School

The Project Citizen Class put together a global warming presentation and invited an audience of district employees and decision makers to hear their recommendations for policy changes at PPS. A.J. Morrison, the principal of Alliance High School, and Dilafruz Williams, a school board member were among the listeners. The students received a positive response and were surprised when the panel suggested that they take this presentation and these policy ideas to a school board meeting. They came away from the experience feeling validated and empowered.

## Grant High School

The Green Club held an environmental poetry slam after school that day, in the wake of finals and semester break. The event was well attended and participants got Focus the Nation t-shirts. The slam poem below was written and performed charismatically by a student named Sable Scott.

# City grant used to address stormwater maintenance

Several stormwater projects throughout the district will benefit from a \$35,000 city grant. The Watershed Investment Fund (WIF), will provide Portland Public Schools an opportunity to continue to look into viable long-term maintenance options. Two maintenance models will be documented. One maintenance model will use volunteers that are guided by an experienced leader and the other model will use a professional landscape maintenance crew. Each model will document the type of maintenance needed at the site as well as approximate hours needed and the best time of year to properly maintain the facility.

WIF grant maintenance will be performed once in the spring and once in the fall at each site throughout the grant year. Work events will be scheduled and coordinated with each school with the goal of doing the “heavy lifting”-pruning and other labor intensive projects. This will free up schools to focus on the educational opportunities that stormwater facilities provide for students. This work is intended to be supplemental to existing maintenance models at each school and will not replace work done by students, parents and teachers.



Glencoe Elementary's rain garden, pictured here, will be one of the projects covered by the city grant.

## W-E-R-E cycle

### Sable Scott, Grant High Student

Every time I take a sip,  
I give the world a tip,  
So I never hear her lip.

Her hot breath screams at me,  
“Litter, try it, pay the fee.”

Global Reconstruction  
Atmosphere eruption

I lay my hand on her back,  
I let her know it's okay.  
For her pain I will pay.

So I say, “mother earth, what can I do?”  
She said, “you know – the power's invested in you”  
I felt like captain planet  
I was the hero, the shero to save the world  
Me and my girl—earth we're ready to reconstruct.

They call it going green  
I call it staying clean

I take out my yellow bin  
Put in two metal tins  
And a shoe box.

## What's New with Oregon Green Schools

**Da Vinci Arts Middle School  
Certified Oregon Green School  
February 1<sup>st</sup>, 2008**

The school community gathered at an assembly to celebrate their new green status. The combination of existing projects and future prospects made for an exciting atmosphere. Katie and I were lucky enough to attend and present the award to principal, La Shawn Lee. The Student Green Team organized several presentations including a skit about waste reduction, a recycling race and a reminder encouraging students to volunteer to wash trays for a week this spring. Da Vinci is in the process of designing and building a new high performance music classroom which will have net-zero emissions. Also, the students are engaging the Styro-

foam issue by washing trays as an alternative. This is all positive, but what is more is that they are also focusing on *sustaining* existing projects and continuing education around the importance of those accomplishments. Despite staff turn over and lapsed time, there are continuing efforts to periodically remind the student body that DaVinci does have a rain garden, there is a solar array and a living machine to process liquid food waste. All of these things need to be maintained while new projects get off the ground. Congratulations to Da Vinci and keep making those daily choices that promote the health of our environment.



## Oregon Green School Summit

This year's Oregon Green School Summit will be taking place in Salem, OR on March 13th.

Portland Public Schools will be represented at the Oregon Green School Summit by Sunnyside Environmental, Glencoe Elementary, Sellwood Middle, Clarendon-Portsmouth, Maplewood Elementary, Chapman Elementary, Skyline Elementary, and Da Vinci Arts Middle. Everyone will be pooling in one school bus to drive down to Salem for a day connecting with other green schools from around the state!

## Sustainability named “guiding principle” in future of PPS Facilities



As many of you may already be aware, last spring Portland Public Schools started the process of creating a vision for the future of our school buildings. This process began last May with public forums where community members, business and district representatives collaborated to identify a framework of principles to guide the development of the facilities plan. Out of this forum came five guiding principles ranging from making our schools centers of community partnerships, to creating inspirational learning environments to ensuring state-of-the-art technology's accessibility to all students.



Also making the list is the guideline committed to sustainability, which reads as follows: “Sustainability: think green, build green, teach green—Schools should teach students and the community about environmental responsibility within the classroom and by utilizing sustainable design.” Additionally the district is committed to building (renovation included) at a level equivalent to the LEED gold standard—“the nationally accepted benchmark for the design, construction and operation of high performance green buildings (usgbc.org).” Portland's new Rosa Parks Elementary (pictured above) was the first public elementary school west of the Mississippi to receive this certification.

Read more about LEED at [www.usgbc.org](http://www.usgbc.org)

Read more about PPS' Facilities plan at <http://reshape.pps.k12.or.us>

Resource Conservation at  
Portland Public Schools

Environmental Health & Safety  
501 N Dixon St  
Portland, OR 97227

**Katie Fairhead**

Energy Conservation  
Coordinator  
Phone: 503 916 2000 x4276  
Email: kfairhea@pps.k12.or.us

**Cassedy Sullivan**

Resource Conservation  
Coordinator  
Phone: 503 916 2000 x4266  
Email: csulliv1@pps.k12.or.us

Check out the Resource  
Conservation Website here:  
[http://facilities.pps.k12.or.us/  
docs/pg/10516](http://facilities.pps.k12.or.us/docs/pg/10516)



## Coming Up: Earth Day—April 22nd

Earth Day is right around the corner, and it's never too early to start planning some fabulous Earth Day events!

Here are some ideas to get you started, but feel free to contact either Cassedy or Katie for more help and ideas!

- Have students decorate grocery bags with earth-friendly living tips
- Have theme days throughout the week: wear green day, walk or bike to school day, waste-free lunch day, etc.
- Invite guest speakers to your school
- Hold a volunteer tree-planting or campus clean-up event

## Upcoming Grant Opportunities

### Captain Planet Foundation

The Captain Planet Foundation provides grants for a wide range of environmental projects. Available grants range in size from \$250 to \$2500. The next application deadline falls on March 31st, with another round of applications due June 30th.

The foundation seeks to fund programs that:

- Promote understanding of environmental issues
- Focus on hands-on involvement
- Involve children and young adults ages 6-18

Find out more and apply here:  
[www.captainplanetfoundation.org](http://www.captainplanetfoundation.org)

### The Coca-Cola/NRC Recycling Bin Grant

Coca-Cola has teamed up with the National Recycling Coalition to provide recycling bins to "applicants who can demonstrate how their proposals will lead to sustainable recycling opportunities".

The Spring 2008 funding cycle opens March 4th, and the online applications will be due April 4th, Grant recipients will be announced on Earth Day, April 22nd.

This is a great opportunity for schools tackling large volumes of plastic bottles ending up in the trash, or contaminating paper recycling.



Coca-Cola provides bins to encourage recycling of beverage containers

A variety of bins are available, all specifically for recyclable beverage containers .

The online application is available at <http://bingrant.org>