

SAVE IT!

February 2009

PPS Resource Conservation

Photo: Rigler Garden

Earth Day, April 22nd

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Earth Day is coming up this year, and it's about time to think about organizing. In the past schools have done lots of fun and interesting activities:

- Show and tell with wildlife professionals.
- A theme week where each day has a different topic.
- Games, trivia, or conservation competitions.
- Tree planting or restoration events near school.
- Student art on paper grocery bags that are then distributed at stores
- Talks on nature from conservationists.
- Explanations of new technology from green builders or renewable energy professionals.
- Art projects geared toward bringing environmentalism into the school
- Metro hosts a student billboard competition for Earth Day each year.
- Themed lesson plans: read *Silent Spring* in English, study wind energy in science, talk about the Clean Water Act in social studies, look at a cap and trade market for carbon in math class.
- Host a Sustainability Fair with booths and activities—Sellwood and Creative Science are already working toward this fun goal.

There is an Earth Day Resource Guide on the PPS website. And, your Energy and Resource Conservation Coordinators can help you with any of these ideas, and more. Contact us!

New Presentations Available From PPS:

- **Wind Energy**
Using a model windmill learn about this renewable resource by testing different blades and measuring electricity generation. Middle to High school
- **How Recycling Works**
students learn about what happens to recyclables when they leave the school and are introduced to solid waste issues. Elementary to Middle school

Contact Us!
mkerry@pps.k12.or.us
eward@pps.k12.or.us

Biodiesel Garbage Truck

For Earth Day, Waste Management, the districts garbage hauler, has agreed to bring one of their bio-diesel trucks on a school visit for Earth Day. If your school is interested, we're going to pull names from a hat. Send your interest to eward@pps.k12.or.us, with 'Earth Day Garbage Truck' in the header.

March Recycling Coordinator Meeting

March 10th 2009, 4:30, BESC—L1 Conference Room

The spring recycling coordinator meeting will cover Earth Day planning, updates on the Energy Challenge including tips for your school, new classroom presentations available, a presentation from the City about bringing Safer Routes to School to your school, and ideas and clarification for Green School Applications.

Plus, as always, there will be food and prizes as thanks for your efforts. See you there!

James John Recycled Materials Puppet Show

A lovable cement mixer, a disgruntled gargoyle, and a talking cell phone were just a few of the characters racing through a world of garbage and recycling at James John in January. A cadre of puppets, all made from recycled materials by Bruce Orr of Mudeye Puppet Company, taught students the value of reducing, reusing, and recycling.

The puppet show started with the routine demolition of a gargoyle home at a construction site where Clement Cement Mixer was working. Confronted by the disgruntled homeowner Clement adventures through landfills and junkyards in search of special objects and on the way learns the value of conservation and preservation over destruction and waste. The spectacular set, imaginative puppets, and goofy voices drew students in to Clement's message and made for an exciting show.

Bruce Orr can do more presentations and workshops, contact him: bruce@mudeyepuppets.org



Bruce Orr with Argyle the Gargoyle

2009 Energy Challenge

The district is challenging 9 schools this year to conserve energy at their school by shifting habits and behaviors! Schools can earn up to \$500 for cutting their energy usage. The Grand Prize drawing is an evening in PGE's owner's box at a baseball game!

This year, the challenge was kicked off by completing an Energy Scavenger Hunt (aka Audit). What a learning experience it has been for everyone!

In addition to discovering how they were wasting energy, schools also learned how to coordinate and get the cooperation of the entire school community – students, teachers, parents, custodians, and the principal!

The results are compiled into the Top Ten Tips for Reducing Electricity at your school on <http://facilities.pps.k12.or.us/.docs/pg/11090>.

It is inspiring to see the expansion of the Power Patrol this year. Some schools have gone completely theatrical – full of fun and personality with capes, “bells and whistles”. In addition, most schools have now elected Green Reps for their class who are responsible for turning off the lights and monitors when not in use, unplugging appliances, and powering down computers by the end of the day. Way to go!

As the challenge moves forward for February and March, schools will be continuing to find creative and fun ways to conserve while educating the entire student body. In their bag of tricks are posters, door hangers, giant graphs, class room presentations, assemblies, newsletters, displays, and videos. If you have any stellar ideas, send them to Melissa and she will post them online so everyone can share!

Does the Power Patrol make a difference?

I shared with my dear friend that she should unplug her TV and cell phone charger when not in use, they consume electricity even when they are turned off, but left plugged in. She politely thanked me, but then commented how she already knew that. Curiously, I asked how she knew that. Now in her 40's, she said she was in 2nd grade during the last 'energy crisis', and her school participated in a Watt Watching program where she would hang thank yous and reminders to not waste energy. She gave an example of a cartoon character that was stuck to the light switch and it would 'eat' the watts unless the lights were turned off. Ever since then, she has been an energy conscious devoted light-turner-offer.

Sustainability TV Pilot

A new pilot for a student created, environmentally focused TV series on PPS' Channel 28 is looking for participants. The show will have a news magazine format, with a host introducing topical pieces—think “60 Minutes”. Each episode will have a specific environmental theme and students from anywhere in the district are invited to participate.

Part of the inspiration for the show is a recently donated TV news set, now set up at the district office. The set is complete with news anchor desk and a huge green screen. The green screen is an especially powerful tool: students could present the dangers of deforestation from inside a rain forest or explain the effects of global warming standing on a glacier—the possibilities are endless. We also have camera equipment to go on field trips and shoot at schools. So put your thinking caps on.

The idea is still in its infancy and there is plenty of room for creativity and helping define the future of this project. All of your enthusiasm and ideas are welcome. There will also be an open house where you can see the TV set on March 10th and 11th from 4 to 6 PM. Please contact Elliot Ward for more information, eward@pps.k12.or.us.

PPSGreen : Blog For School Sustainability

PPSGreen.wordpress.com

The future of information exchange has come to PPS—a blog. It's called PPSGreen, and it will have information on happenings and opportunities within the school district as well as information about the greater environmental movement. Project ideas and grant deadlines will be interspersed with renewable energy explainers and local green news. The blog will also look at major sustainability issues in the context of PPS.

Instead of waiting for newsletters several times a year, PPSGreen, will provide frequent updates. It will be the easiest way to get new information about what's happening with resource conservation at PPS. Check it often!

In addition, PPSGreen can be a trading space for ideas and experience among schools—a virtual village green of sorts. Though there will be strict editorial control, comments are welcome and guest articles are a possibility. If you, or your class, would like to contribute a story or some research, contact Elliot, eward@pps.k12.or.us.

Encourage Walking and Biking at your school

Are you concerned about school traffic safety? Interested in getting more students walking or biking to school? Committed to reducing carbon emissions? If you answered YES to any of these questions, then please get involved with Safer Routes to Schools. PPS is an active partner with the City of Portland's Safer Routes to Schools program, which works to encourage active transportation to and from school. More information on free Safer Routes trainings, easy campaigns you can kick start at your school, and curricula and other great resources are available at www.saferoutesportland.org.

OGSA Shout Out!

Congratulations to our newest Oregon Green Schools: Arleta, James John, Sabin, Astor, and Laurelhurst! Currently, we have 24 certified, 8 in progress, and 16 expired (out of which 8 expire this year). Our goal this year is to raise that number to half the district! You can help by becoming a Green School:

- Get a feel for the Oregon Green School Website: <http://www.oregongreenschools.org>
- Go to PPS Green Website <http://facilities.pps.k12.or.us/.docs/pg/10516>. Find your school's OGSA level.

- ✦ If you have never been certified as a green school, you may not be on the list.
- ✦ If your school has expired within this school year then now is the time to get moving! Your school can recertify if completed by June, 2009.
- ✦ If your school expired a long time ago, then there are programs and teacher/parent champions that might still be in place. So start investigating.
- ✦ Get program ideas for your OGSA

◇ Schedule a waste audit with Elliot Ward eward@pps.k12.or.us.

◇ Contact Melissa Kerry mkerry@pps.k12.or.us and let her know you are interested.

- ✦ She can connect you to other interested people at your school, suggest programs and activities, and assist you with the application process.

Grant Opportunity—SOLV offers \$100 for Service Projects

SOLV's 2009 "Take Care of Oregon" event this May will commemorate the state's 150th anniversary by promoting service events. Events planned for May are eligible to receive up to a \$100 reimbursement. This is a quick and easy chance to put together a great recycling project or tree planting at your school. SOLV has project ideas at their website www.solv.org where you can also register. It's quick and easy. You can even register now and work with them to develop a project. Hurry, registration ends February 28th!

For more contact Elliot (eward@pps.k12.or.us) or Julia at SOLV (Julia@solv.org)

New Installments Coming: Solar 4R Schools

There are six small-scale solar installations on PPS facilities, funded generously by the Bonneville Environmental Foundation as part of the Solar 4 R Schools Program.

We are adding Sellwood and Skyline to that list! Most schools will also be receiving a kiosk to provide students and opportunity to have an interactive learning experience.

Don't Forget the Solar Cart

The district has a mobile solar education cart complete with panels and monitoring equipment. Contact Melissa, mkerry@pps.k12.or.us, to sign-up today.



More Schools Switch to Reusable Trays

Another 4 schools have started using reusable trays through the district's pilot program. Congratulations and thanks for your hard work to Forest Park, Chief Joseph, Creative Science, and Capitol Hill.

Together, those four schools will save 210,000 polystyrene trays from entering the landfill each school year. That makes 15 schools total using reusable plastic trays instead of polystyrene, and accounts for almost 15% of all Styrofoam trays used by the district in a year.

At all four schools the trays are washed by students, showing that through commitment to service they can make tangible positive change.



Reusable Silverware!

Anyone can do it! Replacing your plastic spork package with reusable silverware is a really effective way to prevent waste and save the district money. It's also really easy to start and you can start today. Its just 3 easy steps: hold a drive to collect silverware (ask your cafeteria staff how much you need); design a washing program (Adds about 10 minutes to student lunch helpers time); start washing! Nutruition Services provides all other necessary equipment.

Contact Elliot (eward!@pps.k12.or.us) or Nikole (nwillia1@pps.k12.or.us)

Congratulations to these Schools Currently Using Reusable Silverware:

Abernethy, daVinci, Lewis, Skyline, Sunnyside, and West Sylvan

In addition to seeing the effect of their own actions, students are learning first-hand the importance of waste reduction and gaining a consciousness that will follow them throughout life.

Parents, Teachers and Principals have also been instrumental in starting these new schools. The PTAs at Forest Park and Creative Science both paid for a portion of their trays. At Capitol Hill, Principal Pamela Wilson bought all of the trays for her school out of the school's budget.

Great thanks is also due to the Nutrition Services staff at each school who have actively worked to make this program possible despite the extra work and student supervision it requires of them.

Contact Us!

Nancy Bond
Resource Conservation Specialist
503-916-2000 x74279
nbond@pps.k12.or.us

Melissa Kerry
Energy Conservation Coordinator
Phone: 503-916-2000 x74276
Email: mkerry@pps.k12.or.us

Elliot Ward
Resource Conservation Coordinator
Phone 503-916-2000 x74266
Email: eward@pps.k12.or.us

Work with the ReBuilding Center

The nation's largest non-profit reuse center for salvaged construction and remodeling materials, invites high school groups to visit the Rebuilding Center. Experience a real world reuse project in action, learn about waste reduction, and lend a helping hand!

For more stop by The Rebuilding Center at 3625 N Mississippi Ave. or contact Emily Ordas, volunteer@ourunitedvillages.org or 503.467.4985.

SCRAP Moved!

The School Community Reuse Action Project (SCRAP), a great resource for art materials and education on waste reduction is in a new location. As of Jan 23rd SCRAP is at 2915 NE Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd, just south of Nike and a block from Friends of Trees on MLK. The new space even has as rejuvenated and improved work room.

pps.k12.or.us

Follow "PPS is Green"
Link

Start a Green Team!

Interested in helping your school become more sustainable? No need to reinvent the wheel. No need to do it alone. Find out how to succeed at organizing a team and orchestrating efforts.

To get started visit the Energy Challenge Headquarters on our website:
<http://facilities.pps.k12.or.us/docs/pg/11090>

