



# Oregon Green Schools newsletter

## Welcome!

Fall 2009

The Oregon Green Schools Association has created this newsletter to keep you informed about Green School happenings around the state. Your contributions are welcome, too! Please let us know about your events and activities so that we can include them in a future newsletter or on our website.

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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.*

## Mosier Community School Receives Grant to Upgrade Composting

*By David Skakel, TriCounty Waste & Recycling*

Mosier School, which received \$1,271, is the first recipient of a Tri County small grants program, which currently focuses on composting in area schools. Great timing. Announcement of the grant award coincided with a complaint of obnoxious odor from the existing compost system at the school, which was replaced with two double-bin composters, thermometers, and moisture sensors. Compost is now consistently cooking at 150 degrees



*Students examine Mosier's new compost bins.*

(hot composting!). A local builder partnered with the school to design 2-stall compost bins that offer two advantages: (1) lighter roof that kids can easily open, and (2) lighter overall bins that can easily be moved.

Mosier Community School successfully composts daily food waste from 150 students plus staff. The resulting loamy compost is rich in microbes and nutrients. It goes directly into the adjacent school garden, whereby food begets food. This project easily exemplifies an efficient "circular" way of handling food waste in a beneficial manner.

The new composting set-up has been adopted by teacher Leslie's environmental science class. These fifth and sixth graders will not only take responsibility for the well-being of the compost, but get to monitor and study the utter complexity of that compost-in-action, using special thermometers and moisture probes provided by this grant to quantifiably track the health of the "pile".

### Want Support to start composting in your school?

The program offers small grants totaling \$15,000 annually for this purpose. To find out more about the special grant program for composting in Tri County schools, go to:

<http://www.tricountyrecycle.com/Grants.asp>

## Knappa School District gets DEQ Award

*By Chris Gohl*

The Oregon Department of Environmental Quality's Fleet Forward Program honored Knappa School District on Oct. 20th for protecting student's health. The district retrofitted its diesel school buses with equipment that cuts emissions inside and outside the buses. Nina DeConcini, DEQ Northwest Region Division Administrator presented the commendation at the Astoria Bus Barn.

**2009-2010  
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## ***Notes from the Board***

There are two new faces on the Oregon Green Schools board of directors, John Matthews and Bailey Payne. Neither John nor Bailey is a stranger to Oregon Green Schools, and both bring with them new ideas and enthusiasm. John Matthews is the Sustainability Coordinator and Recycling Advisor for Garten Services in Salem and has been active on the Oregon recycling scene since the 1970's. He also serves on the steering committee for Sustainable Oregon Schools Initiative.

Bailey Payne works as the Recycling Coordinator for Marion County Public Works. His work includes teaching kids about waste reduction and he has been serving as an Oregon Green Schools coordinator for schools in Marion County. OGS is please to welcome both John and Bailey to the board.  
New Staff at OGS

### **New OGS Director**

We are pleased to announce that after a thorough search, Rick Gaupo has been hired as OGS's first Executive Director. Rick's primary role this fall is to help OSG develop a financial plan that will allow the organization to provide waste conservation education to even more schools, students, teachers, custodial staff and families. Gaupo comes to OGS after 15 years as the director of the Salem area Habitat for Humanity and has a strong history of working to help others. The OGS board of directors looks forward to working with Rick to help educate today's students for a sustainable future.

## **SAVE THE DATE! Friday, March 5, 2010 Oregon Green Schools Summit**

This much anticipated annual event will be held in the Portland area with a fun-filled day of celebrating, learning, networking and sharing. To find out what it's all about and view highlights from past Summits, check out the "Summit Showcase" section on the OGS webpage:

[www.oregongreenschools.org](http://www.oregongreenschools.org)

**Only schools with current Oregon Green Schools certification by January 1, 2010 (as verified by OGSA) will be eligible to attend.** There will be no exceptions. Be sure you are current now, or will have your renewal in by early December, to avoid problems.

Summit registration information will be sent via email to regional OGS Coordinators and certified schools in January and posted on the OGS webpage. If you didn't get notice of this newsletter, we don't have your current email address.

Watch the website and plan to register early. Last year registration maxed out and closed **THE FIRST WEEK! Questions?** Contact Summit Chair: [Jan.Rankin@GreshamOregon.gov](mailto:Jan.Rankin@GreshamOregon.gov)

# Welcome New and Recertified Green Schools!

Congratulations to the following schools that have been certified since the publication of our last newsletter:

## GREEN

Alder Elementary	Jan Rankin	Rock Creek Elementary	Sue Shade
Beaverton High	Sue Shade	Roseway Heights	Nancy Bond
Bridlemile Elementary	Nancy Bond	Scenic Middle School	Denise Wolgamott
Candy Lane Elementary	Eileen Stapp	Sellwood Middle School	Nancy Bond
Cedar Park Middle	Sue Shade	St. Anthony	Freda Sherburne
Duniway Elementary	Nancy Bond	St. Paul Elementary	Bailey Payne
Englewood Elementary	Kelley Coole	Sumpter Community	Kelley Cooley
Fir Grove Elementary	Sue Shade	Sweetbriar Elementary	Freda Sherburne
Greenway Elementary	Sue Shade	Walterville Elementary	Jo Rodgers
Hallinan Elementary	Eileen Stapp	West Salem High School	Kelley Cooley
Hamlin Middle	Jo Rodgers	Whiteaker Middle	Kelley Cooley
Harritt Elementary	Kelley Cooley	Wilsonville	Eileen Stapp
Highland Park Middle	Sue Shade		
Holy Redeemer Catholic	Freda Sherburne		
Jason Lee Elementary	Nancy Bond		
Jennings Lodge Elem.	Eileen Stapp		
Keizer Elementary	Kelley Cooley		
Knight Elementary	Eileen Stapp		
McCarty Middle	Jan Rankin		
Newby Elementary	Darol Funk		
Prescott Elementary	Freda Sherburne		
Richmond Elementary	Kelley Cooley		
Riverdale High	Sara Kirby		
Robert Frost Elementary	Bailey Payne		

## MERIT

Arleta Elementary	Nancy Bond
Raleigh Park Elementary	Sue Shade
Vose Elementary	Sue Shade
Woodstock Elementary	Nancy Bond
Yoshikai Elementary	Kelley Cooley

## PREMIER

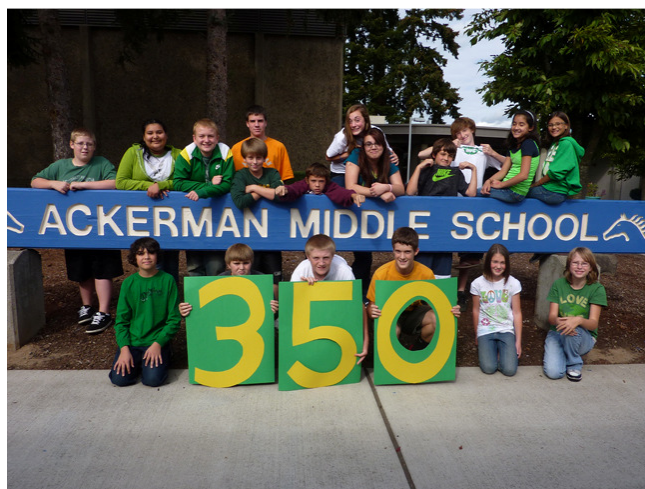
Kelly Creek Elementary	Jan Rankin
Lynch View Elementary	Jan Rankin
Southridge High School	Sue Shade
Sunnyside Environmental	Nancy Bond

## Ackerman Middle School

By Valerie Martin

Ackerman Middle School been busy this fall, participating in 350.org on Saturday October 24th. It is a world wide day of action to bring awareness to the need to reduce carbon emissions. Joining 178 countries and over 4,000 actions the Ackerman Green Team was at businesses throughout the Canby area to thank customers for shopping locally, thus saving carbon emissions. Students handed out business cards with tips for curbing carbon emissions. For more information check out the website: [350.org](http://350.org)

In addition Ackerman students are composting lunch produce, have built a cold frame to experiment with winter crops, created a large eco mural made from recycled items, are preparing a "green" slide show to remind the student body of the things to do at school to reduce, reuse and recycle and are applying for a solar grant.



Ackerman Middle School Green Team.

## Holy Redeemer De-paves

*By John Baggenstos, Facilities Director*

Holy Redeemer recently received a \$10,000 Community Watershed Stewardship Program grant from the City of Portland to remove unnecessary pavement and convert those areas into beds of natural plantings that will absorb thousands of gallons of rainwater from the gym roof. DEPAVE, a group of young, enthusiastic volunteers visited Holy Redeemer Catholic School and spent most of their day off removing almost 4,800 square feet of asphalt from our oversized playground. DEPAVE has also been instrumental in helping to remove another 7,200 square feet of packed gravel to provide space for a vegetable garden to benefit the on site St Vincent de Paul food bank and others. The event attracted a crowd of 60 volunteers from DEPAVE, the Parish, three Catholic High Schools, and the curious from the neighborhood. This event would have been IMPOSSIBLE without DEPAVE.

Holy Redeemer is impressed by DEPAVE's commitment to hard work, spirit of volunteerism, concern for the environment, and, not least of all, professionalism in carrying out their mission. To find out more about this group and their on going efforts to free Portland from its excessive asphalt shroud, and relieve the storm water burden on area streams and rivers, visit: [www.depave.org](http://www.depave.org).

## Phoenix School of Roseburg

*By Kim Tanner, Green Technologies Teacher*

The new Green Technologies Program at Phoenix School covers topics such as alternative energy, green careers, green design, alternative building, and weatherization. A recycling team picks up the schools classroom recycling on a weekly basis and educates fellow students on recycling. A future plan to compost daily school meals and make compost for the school garden is planned. Energy audits are planned at Phoenix in the future that will be used as a template for assisting the community with making other schools and businesses green too!

Another school will be adopted in the Roseburg school district to help Phoenix reach the merit level in the near future. An OGS incentive award, from Spring 09 will be spent to design and build a container that for the cafeteria that will hold waste milk, milk cartons, and compostable material to take to future worm bins and a newly created recycled 3 bin pallet compost system

## Reducing Trash at St. Anthony's

*By Jessie Kaske*

The 2009/2010 school year started off with green success! As new members of the Oregon Green School organization, many new ventures have been explored to reduce trash output and use resources wisely. After a waste audit was conducted by the 6<sup>th</sup> grade class, the stats and showed that milk cartons constituted 42% of waste in the cafeteria. A plan to was developed to decrease this number. Bellagio's Pizza donated a rack and large tray's to fit the rack were found in the used section of Rose's Restaurant Equipment store. The custodial staff found a 5 gallon bucket to hold the unconsumed milk, and set out a "recycle table" in the middle of the cafeteria. Milk cartons are now being recycled! After they are emptied and sit out to dry for a day on the rack, they are disposed of into the co-mingle recycle container. In addition to milk cartons, drink pouches are being recycled through a company called TerraCycle. Drink pouches are rinsed and sent to TerraCycle in packs of 100 pouches. The company turns these drink pouches that were destined for the landfill into new items such as pencil pouches and tote bags. St. Anthony's receives a small amount of money back for doing this. Students feel good about reducing the trash output. Funds will be used to further decrease the trash output by purchasing composters and composting food waste in the cafeteria!



*St. Anthony School does waste audit .*

## OGSA Participants Win AOR Awards

Christa Garman, Head Custodian at Kelly Creek Elementary School in Gresham, and Jan Rankin, immediate past President of the Oregon Green Schools Association, were recently honored by the Association of Oregon Recyclers (AOR). Christa and Jan have worked extensively together, and each received an AOR “Recycler of



*Jan and Christa with their awards.*

Christa was presented the AOR Ray Ford “Golden Torch” award, acknowledging her outstanding individual creative approach to waste reduction. She has been the head custodian at Kelly Creek Elementary School since it was built in 1994, and has led the way in establishing a school culture of waste reduction and resource conservation in everyday activities and attitudes. As Jan explains, “For Christa, it’s all about kids and the environment.”

Each year, Christa gathers together a new core group of students known as the Aardvark Recycling Team. Through her efforts with these dedicated team members, Kelly Creek became the first Premier Oregon Green School in the state, accomplished many environmental projects, and has won numerous accolades, including the 2008 Ford Company “Escape to Educate” contest worth \$250,000 in environmental improvements to the school.

Jan was named “Individual Recycler of the Year” in recognition of her many years working in the field of recycling with Gresham-area schools. She also played a key role in establishing the Oregon Green Schools Association and is largely responsible for Gresham having an impressive number of schools recognized as Premier Oregon Green Schools. In addition, Jan was part of a team of regional waste reduction educators who received the 2009 AOR “Education/Promotion Program of the Year” award for their creation of the DVD entitled “Saving Little Pieces of Our Earth.”

## Lane County OGSA – a New Model

*By Jo Rodgers, regional OGSA coordinator, PPS*

Lane County has a new model for OGS coordination cooking these days: a not-for-profit organization serving as the regional coordinator under contract with the City of Eugene and Lane County Waste Management. This replaces the two people who served as the OGS coordinators for many years. The hope is that the non-profit, Partners for Sustainable Schools (PSS), will be able to attract more schools into the OGS system through new programs that are in place now or are being developed. These programs include a biannual “Hope in Action” conference, a “Cool School Challenge” (which is based on a very successful program in Washington state), and a youth leadership program that will be test-piloted this year. See the website for more details ([www.iseesustains.org](http://www.iseesustains.org)).

As a new OGS coordinator, Rodgers noticed that money and time are stretched thinner than ever this year in schools. No news flash there. In some schools, this translates into green activities falling by the wayside. The idea that PSS is working on is to develop a network of students from K-12 schools in the area who can come together electronically or at times in person, to discuss how to make a difference in their schools and communities. They hope that this network will allow them to take some of the pressure off teachers—just imagine a posse of students from different levels and schools giving a presentation to an elementary school that is considering going green?

Student email addresses will be collected (or parents or teachers in the case of younger students) at the next Hope in Action Conference (Nov. 20).

## New Waste Audit Form

*By Bailey Payne, regional OGSA coordinator*

A regional coordinator recently created a new form for doing waste audits. It is an Excel spreadsheet that automatically calculates and graphs the composition of the garbage by weight and volume. Following the waste audit the teacher or students simply enter in their results and the percentages of each material type and pie charts summarizing the results are automatically generated. To receive a copy of the spreadsheet, please email Bailey Payne ([bpayne@co.marion.or.us](mailto:bpayne@co.marion.or.us))

## Days Creek Charter School

By Janis Davis

Students at Days Creek have shown a great deal of support and involvement in the Green Team's activities around campus. The Green Team has 4 returning students and seven new additions. The student body involvement, outside of the Green Team itself, this year has increased over last year too. Since May, 2009, Days Creek HS has reduced waste and was able to get rid of 1 dumpster and reduce another. Outside involvement has increased from the community. A local restaurant is now involved in the schools green movement.

Days Creek HS was nominated for Wal-Mart's "Earth Day Everyday" challenge, and received a \$500 Wal-Mart gift card. With the gift card industrial size hoses, spray nozzles, 2 dump wagons, 2 industrial size garbage cans and enough silverware for the cafeteria to completely convert from plastic to re-usable silverware was purchased.

A sanitary room has been dedicated to the sorting and recycling of bottles and cans throughout the school. Sinks and coded recycle bins have been added to the room to make the process cleaner and easier for the can and bottle team. Recycling batteries and machine cartridges has begun, with containers set up in convenient locations.

The Green Team has placed "Re-use Pens/ Pencils" drops all over the school for the convenience of the students whether it is that they *have* extra pens/ pencils, or *need* pens/pencils.

The school is in the process of designing and building a lean-to on the side of a recycling storage building for the re-use and recycling of cardboard for community as well as school. On Earth Day, a BAG fashion show was held, using all types of bags from high fashion bags to garbage bags. And a Pizza box ZINGA was also held, using pizza boxes collected after a big party. Teams had to make the stacking structures with cans and bottles between layers. Cans and bottles were then removed one at a time. the team whose stack lasted the longest won.



*Hollydale Elementary Green Team in front of new cistern.*

## Hollydale Elementary – New Rain Garden

By Julie Melton

Hollydale Elementary in Gresham continues to reduce, recycle and reuse through programs such as Watt Watchers, Waste Busters, Food Waste Composting, the Nature Habitat and Community Activities.

In October, the Nature Leaders, 28 4th and 5th graders, will be working with the City of Gresham Watershed Division and "Portland Purple Water" based in Beaverton on a rain barrel and rain garden project. Through generous grants from the City of Gresham, The Watershed Division has installed a 2,500-gallon rain cistern in the schools Nature Habitat, to overflow to a rain garden created October 30<sup>th</sup>. The cistern will have a bicycle pump to generate higher pressure for the drip irrigation system in place in the garden area. (Nature Leaders will be able to water the garden boxes by pedaling the bike). In November the Nature Leaders will assist in planting the rain garden. During the fall and winter the Nature Leaders will then learn about the benefits of disconnecting downspouts and the purpose of the rain garden. The next project will be to eliminate the lawn and the need for mowing, using weed mat, wood chips and gravel to turn the Nature Habitat into a low maintenance landscape area.

## Abernathy Elementary

*By Sarah Sullivan, Garden of Wonder Program Coordinator*  
Abernathy Elementary's Garden of Wonders food and garden education program inspires students to truly understand the concept that our food, planetary and physical health are linked. In the outdoor garden, classroom, and unique cafeteria, students tie food and garden education together with practical, hands-on curriculum in science, math, language, history, art, and a rich culture of food. Over 400 children spend a collective three weeks throughout the year in the garden planting, harvesting, tasting, digging, observing, and exercising!

Every meal served at Abernathy is cooked in-house and Abernathy Café is making a difference district wide! In October the entire district adopted one of chef Nicole's delicious recipes and sourced all of the ingredients for all Portland public schools to serve fresh tomato salad! By working with Nutritional Services to meet national standards and distribution channels for other schools, a model was created to serve healthier, local, fresh food to Portland's children.

The Captain Planet Foundation generously donated \$500 to fix up and utilize an existing greenhouse. Kids will work in the warm greenhouse this winter to: sow seeds, watch them grow, and ensure lots of plants are ready to go into the garden in the Spring!

Abernathy Elementary also is proud to use green, reusable trays to cut down on kitchen waste. Through "Adopt a Plot" program, students and their families tend the native gardens, school grounds, and edible landscaping around the school. Abernathy's Bike or Walk to School day (below) is a big hit! By encouraging physical fitness and healthy eating, Abernathy is teaching students that health and learning go hand in hand.



## South Salem High School

*By Dottie Knecht, teacher*

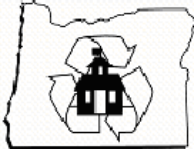
South Salem HS is excited this year about the waste reduction portion of Green School efforts! Maintaining high level of recycling has allowed the school to consolidate processing locations to two rather than four areas. The new sort/shred room can accommodate more student and staff workers, which reduces the amount of "movement and transition" time. Efficiency and productivity are higher. This allows more time to be spent on other aspects of waste reduction, which had been put on hold over the past several years.

**Community Closet:** The recycling program is focusing more on the "re-use" aspect of the 3 Rs. A South High student won a contest last year with the idea of creating a clothing and supplies "closet" on campus for homeless students. With her prize money she is modifying an approved space within the school. The recycling program is collecting items such as discarded clothing, shoes, notebooks, binders, and pens/pencils that can be re-used. The same thing is being done with textbooks and paperbacks no longer being used by classrooms. The program is coordinated with Rotary, who picks up and sends books to BookBytes, a program to provide books to schools in Africa. This year the school anticipated donating 500 pounds of books.

The school is in its third year of working in partnership with the community to restore Clark Creek, an urban creek that runs adjacent to the schools soccer and baseball fields. Twice a year community events are hosted to pick up litter, remove invasive species, and replant with native species.

This year, students from the environmental club invite students and the community to view films with an environmental message. The first film titled 'Addicted to Plastic' will be shown in December.

Students from the environmental club are working together with other local middle and elementary school students to help the state improve energy efficiency in two Salem offices. The student teams are inspecting each building and filling out audit forms for the state sustainability coordinator, who has agreed to implement all feasible recommendations and will be charting the change in energy use over the next six months. The teams will gather in late spring to assess the outcome of the project.



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If you are not getting notice of this newsletter  
via email, send your email address  
to: [greenschoolin@yahoo.com](mailto:greenschoolin@yahoo.com)

### 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 allows us to provide this program to schools across the state. **Thanks so much for your support!**

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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