

Oregon Green Schools

newsletter

Oregon Green Schools Newsletter Fall 2007

Welcome!

The Oregon Green Schools Association has created this newsletter to keep you informed about Green School happenings around the state. We hope this new issue will inspire schools to jumpstart or improve their programs. New schools are always welcome!

Your contributions are welcome, too! Please let us know about your events and activities so that we can include them in a future newsletter.

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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.

Salem-Keizer Schools Celebrate Energy Awareness Day in a BIG WAY!

By Kat Hill

On Thursday, October 4th, 475 Salem-Keizer Public School students from grades four through eight celebrated Energy Awareness Day at an Energy Fair held on the steps of the Capitol building in Salem.

The Salem-Keizer School District has a very successful energy conservation program called Watt Watchers. Each year it saves about \$450,000 on energy costs through this program. The Energy Fair encouraged students to think of additional ways to conserve energy in school and at home. In addition, students learned how to be earth-friendly and use public transportation by riding Cherriots, the local transit district bus service, for free. A travel trainer answered questions and showed the teachers and students how to use mass transit.

Once at the Capitol, students climbed to the top of the tower, where they learned about the solar cells that light the pioneer on top of the building. They were able to tour energy information booths hosted by Salem Electric, Oregon Green Schools, SeSequential Biofuels, the Watershed Enhancement Team, Cherriots Rideshare, Wal-Mart Organics, Watt Watchers and the Department of Energy.

Finally, the students learned about the alternative-fueled vehicles that were on display. These included the Department of Energy's Prius, Kettle Foods' bio-Beetle, Delon Honda's Civic Hybrid, Salem Electric Wheels' ZAP car, and the Buster's Barbeque Smart Car.



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2007-2008

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Meet Your Oregon Green Schools Board of Directors!



Back row: Julie, Jan, Anne, Kat **Front row:** Eileen and Kelley
Not pictured: Michelle

Notes from the Board

Board meetings are held on the third Thursday of each month in Wilsonville. Visitors are welcome! If you would like to attend a meeting, please call Board President Jan Rankin at (503) 618-2613 to confirm time and location of the next meeting.

Incentive Awards for Green Schools

Ten awards valued at \$300 each are now available to schools that become certified at one of our three levels during the 2007-08 school year! These are made possible through a generous donation to Oregon Green Schools from the Oregon Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ).

A school can choose \$300 cash to spend on its own resource conservation efforts OR one of the following incentive packages: (1) Worm bin composting package; (2) Bento waste-free lunch kit; or (3) LivingWise Activity Kit. Go to www.oregongreenschools.org to see a complete description of these items and award criteria details. Awards are on a first-come, first-served basis.

To apply, ask your local Oregon Green Schools coordinator to submit an Incentive Award Request form along with your completed Oregon Green School application.

Save the Date! March 13, 2008

The **Oregon Green Schools Summit** will be held in Salem on **March 13, 2008**, at the **Oregon State Fairgrounds in Salem**. The theme is "I've Got the Power!" We know that students at certified Oregon Green Schools are making a huge difference for our schools and for our future. This year registration can be done online! We'll send along more details as they become available.

Welcome New Green Schools!

Oregon Green Schools Association congratulates the following new and renewing Green Schools and their OGS coordinators:

Green Schools:

Adam Stephens Middle School – Kelley Cooley
Alice Ott Middle School – Amy Wilson
Cascade High School – Bailey Payne
Chapman Elementary – Nancy Bond
Corvallis Montessori School – Julie Jackson
Gladstone High School – Eileen Stapp
Highland Elementary – Jan Rankin
Hollyrood Elementary School – Nancy Bond
Lincoln Elementary – Bailey Payne
Livingstone Adventist Academy – Bailey Payne
Maplewood Elementary School – Nancy Bond
Metzger Elementary – Freda Sherburne
Pacific Northwest Academy – Eileen Stapp

Redmond High School – Denise Rowcroft
Scholls Heights Elementary – Sue Shade
Skyline Elementary – Nancy Bond
Springwater Trail High School – Jan Rankin
Wilson Elementary – Julie Jackson

Merit Schools:

Buckman Elementary School – Nancy Bond
Stafford Primary – Eileen Stapp

Premier Schools:

Deep Creek Elementary – Eileen Stapp

2007 Green Schools Association Coordinators' Training Session

By Eileen Stapp

On June 21st, twenty-nine Oregon Green School enthusiasts crowded into a Redmond condo to witness the Wizard of Watts, aka Kat Hill, amaze them with demonstrations of electrical daring that literally made their hair stand on end. The 29 regional OGS coordinators, potential coordinators and board members were attending the Association of Oregon Recyclers Conference and annual OGS Regional Coordinators' Training. Kat, Salem-Keizer School District Energy Specialist, was the highlight of the training, electrifying, entertaining and educating the group with helpful information about the Watt Watchers program, an excellent system for tracking and reducing school energy use.

Jan Rankin, Board President, led a unit on all the changes recently made to the OGS applications and I, as Coordinator Chair, organized the training session, spoke about procedural issues, and cooked for the group. Because Allied Waste Services generously covered the costs, I was able to offer Greek lemon chicken, herb roasted potatoes, blueberry-spinach salad, brownies and fruit to attendees.



Kat Hill gave a shocking performance at the OGS Coordinators' Training held in June

Thank you, Allied, for your support and regional coordinators for all your efforts. A huge **thank you** also goes to Kat and Jan for help in making the training so successful.

Newby Shows How It's Done

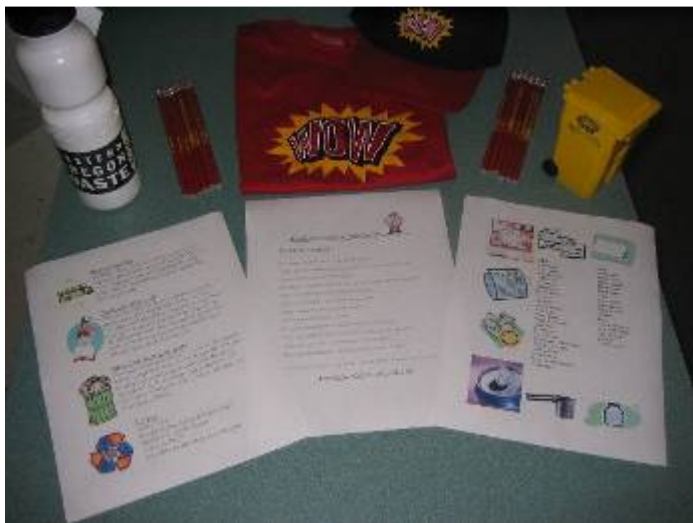
By Darol Funk

Newby Elementary School is the first school in the McMinnville School District to be certified an Oregon Green School. Last spring, fifth-grade teacher Bonnie Mann, who heads up the school's environmental efforts, wanted to have a district-wide "mini summit" to showcase Newby's green efforts and to encourage other schools to follow suit. And what an event it turned out to be!

Bonnie and her students hosted and also presented at the summit. Teams from each of the five other elementary schools in the district attended, along with the district's custodial staff supervisor. Five stations were established -- *Rethink, Reduce, Reuse, Recycle* and *Register*. Newby students made all the presentations at the first four stations and shared what their school is doing in each category.

The event was made possible through generous sponsorship from Western Oregon Waste (WOW). Its support included paying for substitute teachers, bus transportation, refreshments, prizes and give-aways, recycling guide sheets, tours of the Material Recycling Facility and the landfill, books, videos, lesson plans and waste audits.

Our local newspaper provided coverage of the summit, which generated a nice recycling article that reached the entire community. I have been invited by the District Superintendent to give a recycling presentation to the entire District administrative staff. There is no doubt that Bonnie's and the students' efforts will really make a difference in McMinnville!



Informational display at Newby Showcase

Not a Scrap Wasted at Hollydale Elementary School

By Jan Rankin



Head custodian Ian Bolyard displays lunchroom organics

Hollydale Elementary School recently participated in the City of Gresham's Organic Food Waste Recycling Pilot Project. Hollydale, a certified Premier Oregon Green School with an outstanding recycling program, was a natural choice to be a participant.

Following a concentrated training period for students and staff conducted by head custodian Rod Maynard, a clearly marked "Organics" station was added to the already existing recycling line in the cafeteria. There, students scraped their leftover food scraps and compostable paper items into a large wheeled container lined with a plastic bag. Students from various classrooms took turns as cafeteria recycling monitors and assisted Mr. Maynard with overseeing the operation. Similarly in the kitchen, food service staff saved scraps and paper items in a plastic-lined roller cart. Items were also collected daily in the teachers' lounge.

At day's end, the organics were dumped together into an outside container which was serviced weekly by the local garbage hauling company. From there, the material was taken to a transfer station and loaded

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Healthy Waters Institute Grants

By Traci Price, Director,
Healthy Waters Institute Oregon Trout

The Healthy Waters Institute (HWI) seeks to forge a lifelong, caretaking bond between students and their local watershed, ensuring stream health for generations. HWI develops, delivers and brings together watershed education programs, activities and partners that will help move youth from students to stewards.

A recent example is Sisters High School in Bend, which designed and undertook an Independent Project to salvage riparian vegetation from a piping project in McKenzie Canyon and transplant the willows, alders, and other native plants to the banks of Whychus Creek. We worked in partnership with Wolfree, Three Sisters Irrigation District, Sisters Ranger District, Deschutes River Conservancy and the Upper Deschutes Watershed Council.

In addition to teacher grants of up to \$500 each to support students in connecting with their local waters, HWI is pleased to announce that we will be offering student grants available up to \$200 each to help high school students purchase supplies, equipment or cover transportation expenses through participation in an Independent Project. HWI will also be awarding four student scholarships to graduating seniors in the amount of \$1,500 each for exemplary projects. Please check out our website (www.healthywatersinstitute.org) for updated information on how to apply.

HWI looks forward to continuing support for students in the classroom and in the field through innovative and dynamic programs and incentives.



Macroinvertebrate sampling



We have a new display! Coordinators can bring this on the road to show at events.

Hollydale (continued)

with compostables from other pilot project participants into trucks for transport to Cedar Grove Composting, a facility located south of Seattle, where it was transformed into rich compost for use in gardens and landscapes across the Northwest.

As a result of this project, garbage in Hollydale's cafeteria was reduced by 50%; paper towel trash from non-restroom areas decreased by 40%; and kitchen trash was reduced by 30%. In addition, students learned valuable hands-on lessons about the wise use of resources and the science of composting. Obviously, the school was thrilled with the results from the project.

Next, the Gresham City Council will decide whether or not to take steps to fund a permanent commercial organics recycling program.

To read more about Hollydale Elementary School's outstanding environmental efforts, log onto: www.oregongreenschools.org/prem_hollydale.cfm

Waste Reduction Awareness Program (WRAP) Awards

By Michelle Shepperd

The Waste Reduction Awareness Program (WRAP) was created in 1993 to provide an incentive for schools to set up and expand recycling programs. Do you know of a school or individual 18 years of age or under who deserves to be recognized for his or her efforts to reduce waste and use resources more efficiently?

The Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ), in partnership with the Association of Oregon Recyclers (AOR), offers \$500 awards to recognize and promote the efforts of schools and individuals who have gone beyond the call of duty and made a positive difference.

Annually, WRAP applications are sent to principals of every public and private, elementary and secondary grade school in Oregon. Beginning early this year, AOR and DEQ began reviewing the awards application process. Over the last few years the number of applicants has dropped considerably, so DEQ and AOR are working together with the Oregon Green Schools Association to come up with a better process.

Gladstone High School Goes Green

By Eileen Stapp

What do you get when you mix brains, hard work and a passion for our environment? They know at Gladstone High, where students under the direction of Spanish teacher Brad Kunz recently earned Oregon Green School status for their school. County OGS Coordinator Eileen Stapp interviewed Mr. Kuntz about their vision for Gladstone High:

Stapp: So why did you choose to become an Oregon Green School?

Kuntz: **The motivating factor came from thinking about the amount of waste that eight hundred people (students and staff) generate. If eight hundred can make tiny changes, together it equals an enormous change.**

S: How did you recruit your student team?

K: **Initially we began with a core group of twenty to thirty National Honor Society students who did the leg work. Then we formed a Green School Club. We had a great turnout of twenty-five people at our first meeting. But I was astounded when sixty-six students gave up their lunch period to attend our second meeting.**

S: What would you recommend to schools beginning a similar program?

K: **Get the students excited. Understand it's a long road, but every step counts.**

S: How did the OGS program help you achieve your initial goals?

K: **OGS provided our roadmap, helping us evaluate our initial state and determine which steps to take.**

S: How did you get the support of administrative, custodial and other staff?

K: **It started with conversations. Our principal was elated about the idea, our head custodian is behind and part of our efforts. They're people who really care about the environment and understand that Gladstone High could be making a big difference. Our district superintendent, Bob Stewart, is totally supportive.**

S: Any parting thoughts?

K: **We need to be training young adults in making important changes in lifestyle because the ripple effect is a powerful thing.**



Gladstone High School certified Green School

Portland Public Schools Fork it Over!

By Megan Harrington

Ever wonder what happens to left over food from our school cafeterias once students leave for vacation? For the past three years, cafeteria workers at Portland Public Schools have donated their leftovers to local hunger relief agencies. The combined efforts of local organizations, cafeteria staff, nutrition services, and district AmeriCorps members have resulted in over 97,000 pounds of food being diverted from our landfills and fed to people at local shelters and food banks. The best part about the Fork It Over program is that it can easily be replicated at other schools.

For the past year I have had the opportunity to organize four Fork It Over events for the Portland Public Schools (PPS). Starting about a month prior to any extended school vacation (Thanksgiving, Winter Break, Spring Break, and the end of the school year), I contacted local organizations that care for Portland's hungry to find out who was interested in picking up donations and to see what the capacity of each organization was (Metro's website has great resources on finding such organizations in the Portland metropolitan area). I worked with 15 local organizations to handle the volume of food coming out of our 85 schools. Representatives from each organization were given a list of schools in their area. Most organizations requested 6-8 schools, with some picking up more, and some less. They were given a two-hour time frame during which they could pick up the food (after lunch was served, but before employees went home).

Employees of the district's nutrition services sent out information to all the cafeteria leads notifying them of the event and instructing them to clearly label and set aside any leftover food they wished to be donated. Office staffs were also informed of the event and were told which organization to expect.

On the day of the event, each organization called the schools on its list to see if they had any leftover food to be donated. Organization

representatives then drove to each school that had food, checked in at the office, and loaded the food into their vehicles. After they went to all of their schools, they called me with any feedback and an estimated weight of the food they collected.

Every organization I worked with was so grateful for the donations they received. The school district comes out on top by avoiding disposal costs (estimated \$10,000 savings over the 3 years) and by further contributing to Portland's well being. This partnership between the school district and the local community is good for everyone involved, and although it takes some time to organize the event, it is well worth it.



PPS staff donate leftover food for Fork it Over to Metanoia Peace community representative (center).

Ink cartridges add up for Oregon Green Schools

Oregon Green Schools would like to thank Bailey Payne and Marion County Public Works Environmental Services for generously donating money received from their ink cartridge return program to Oregon Green Schools. For the school year 2006/07 Marion County donated over \$1,000 to support Oregon Green School efforts! Thank you Bailey!