



Oregon Green Schools Association  
9305 SW Terwilliger Blvd. #1  
Portland, OR 97219

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# Oregon Green Schools newsletter

Oregon Green Schools Newsletter Volume 4, Number 3 Winter 2005

### 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.*

## The Summit is Coming! "Follow the Rainbow to a Greener World" March 17 in Eugene



Green Schools from across the state will be gathering at the 10<sup>th</sup> annual Oregon Green Schools Summit, a day of sharing, learning and celebrating the wise use of natural resources. This year's focus is on "Greening our World." This year our featured speaker will be Alex Cuyler, Chair of the Association of Oregon Recyclers. Summiters will enjoy a number of exciting sessions and lunch is free!

Attendees will end the day with renowned magician Steffan Soule who will awe and inspire the crowd with his "Magic of Recycling" performance!

The Summit will be held at Willamette High School in Eugene, on Friday, March 17, 2006. All Green Schools are invited to fill out their registration forms and return them to the Oregon Green Schools office by February 17 in order to reserve places for their teachers and students. In addition, a limited number of sponsorships are also available to reimburse schools for the cost of a substitute teacher and travel expenses. To be eligible, schools must request reimbursement on your registration form and meet the postmark deadline of February 17.



If you have questions about registration, please contact Lin Harmon-Walker from the Oregon Green Schools Association at (503) 956-6283, greenschoolin@yahoo.com.



If you have questions about the Summit in general, please contact Anne Donahue, Summit Chair at (541) 682-5542; anne.c.donahue@ci.eugene.or.us

## Be a friend to Oregon Green Schools!



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 helps to provide educational displays and recognition materials for schools and supports the annual Green Schools Summit.

**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

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Affiliation \_\_\_\_\_

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Telephone (w) \_\_\_\_\_ (h) \_\_\_\_\_ email \_\_\_\_\_

Mail checks payable to: Oregon Green Schools Association

Send to: Oregon Green Schools  
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Questions? Call (503) 381-7344

# Thank You!

Contributions to The Oregon Green Schools Association are tax deductible

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## Notes from the Board

### Grants for Green Schools

A few Incentive Grants are still available for the 2005-06 school year. Most of the funds for this program are from a DEQ grant. Thanks DEQ! There are a few changes: \$300 incentive grants will be given to five new schools from our target area and \$300 grants will be given to five schools (in any region) that move up to or renew at the Merit or Premier status. Watch for application materials on our website at [www.oregongreenschools.org](http://www.oregongreenschools.org), or contact your regional coordinator for more information.

### October Energy Awareness Day Sparks Interest

Skyrocketing energy prices drew students to Energy Awareness Day, October 6, 2005, at the Capitol. Sponsored by the Oregon Department of Energy, Salem-Keizer Transit (Cherriots), and Salem-Keizer Schools, Energy Awareness Day hosted students on field trips to the Capitol to learn how to save energy and money.

Cherriots provided free transportation to the Energy Fair. A travel trainer taught the students how to use the bus system on their own. Then the students received route maps and free tickets for rides at a later date.

At the Capitol, students climbed to the top of the tower, where they heard about and viewed the solar panels that light the Golden Pioneer on top of the Capitol. They then viewed a Car Free Day and Energy Awareness Month poster display in the Galleria.

They also visited the information booths presented by Salem Electric, Cherriots, Mid-Valley Rideshare, and the Department of Energy. A scaled-down version of a wind turbine was also on display.

Finally, the students learned about the alternative-fueled vehicles, which were parked in front of the Capitol. The Department of Energy provided a Toyota Prius and a Compressed Natural Gas car. Kettle Foods sent their Bio-Bug. Salem Electric Vehicles had a number of Neighborhood Electric Vehicles available for viewing. A Valley Vanpool van was also on display - when it wasn't shuttling its vanpool participants.

For more information on Energy Awareness Day, please call Lorna Danielson at (503) 588-2424, or Kat Hill at (503) 399-5588.

## Ever Green: Oregon Green School Updates

### Congratulations to New and Renewing Green Schools!

#### Premier Schools

#### Merit Schools

#### Green Schools

### Forest Ridge's Eight Ripples...

### Reduce, Reuse, Rot, Recycle, Reject, Renew, Repair, React ... will make a great wave of change

Forest Ridge Elementary and Optimum Learning Environment Charter School has just been awarded Premier Oregon Green School status. This school teaches and practices a "conservation ethic". Each grade level has a focus and actions that care for our environment.

Secretary of State, Bill Bradbury, was the featured guest speaker at the award ceremony. The event lasted all day, with demonstrations on how to: make a worm bin, make a waste-free lunch, conserve water, make suet for bird feeders, and more! Organic food tasting was provided by a local natural foods store.

Laurie Aguirre is the second grade teacher and power house behind the environmental program at Forest Ridge. Her enthusiasm is infectious. Anyone visiting the school is moved by the far-reaching impact of her program.

Sample projects at the school have been: a "Renew-Reuse" center operated by students and parents in which items in good condition will be taken in for trade or

transferred to others in need; each student receives a "Kids Care Kit" which contains items that help protect water quality and promote water conservation; students operate monitoring teams during lunch to promote "Take what you eat - Eat what you take" and encourages waste free lunch containers; classes provide outreach to community businesses to encourage them to buy recycled content products and reduce excessive packaging; wormi-vermi-composting lessons have helped students and the public begin composting their food waste.

The students at Forest Ridge have mentored other schools to assist them in becoming green schools, they have presented lessons at OMSI and the Oregon Green Schools Summit, and they have made presentations to the Salem-Keizer School Districts board members.

Congratulations to Forest Ridge Elementary and Optimum Learning Environment Charter School for making a difference for our environment.

### Seeking Young Eco-Heroes ...

Do you know any young eco-heroes aged 8 to 16 years? Please let them know about Action For Nature's 2006 International Young Eco-Hero awards program. Winners receive a cash prize and recognition for their environmental accomplishments. The award promotes individual action concerning environmental protection and advocacy, environmental health projects and the education of others. Deadline for submissions is February 28, 2006. See <http://www.actionfornature.org> for more details.