



King County
Department of Natural Resources and Parks
Solid Waste Division

Class Act

School Recycling Program Newsletter — Winter 2008

Earth Heroes at School Demonstrate Continued Dedication



Mike Town and his students at Redmond High have been awarded the President's Environmental Youth Award.

The King County Earth Heroes at School Program, which recognizes important work for the environment by teachers, students and others in schools, began in 2001. A check-in with former Earth Heroes at School to

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Greening Our Schools

Here's an update on schools participating in the King County [Green Schools Program](#). Many of these schools have formed classroom action groups or [Green Teams](#).

see what they have been up to resulted in an amazing list of good works.

- 2002 winner **Cathy Buck** at Tolt Middle School recently planted 700 trees with her students near the Snoqualmie River to restore salmon habitat.
- 2004 winner **Judit Mulnar-Logan** and her students recognized by the Cascade Land Conservancy for their Restoration and Stewardship Program at Hicks Lake. Their work resulted in the return of the Great Blue Heron after a fourteen-year absence!
- 2006 winner **Mike Town** and his students at Redmond High have been awarded the [President's Environmental Youth Award](#), the biggest honor for young environmentalists in the United States. Town and his students have been working with the Puget Sound Clean Air Agency to develop a Cool Schools Challenge to reduce CO2 emissions.
- 2007 winner **John Schmied** from Skyview Junior High was recently named Environmentalist of the Year by the East Lake Washington Audubon Society for his work organizing students to build the Skyview Environmental Trail, among other projects.

Read more about what other former [Earth Heroes at Schools](#) have been doing.

Nominations for 2008 Earth Heroes at School are due February 29.

2008 Earth Heroes at School will be honored on April 24.

Green Team Projects Make a Difference

Students Become Environmental Stewards

In addition to tending their native plant garden, the fourth/fifth grade Green Team at **Clark Elementary**, led by Liza Rickey, has been testing the water quality of Issaquah Creek. Since visiting the South Wastewater Treatment Plant, they have been educating the community about using eco-friendly



Earth Savers club at Eagle Rock Multi-Age School.

Eagle Rock Multi-Age School, Riverview School District

Deborah Edwards and the Earth Savers club successfully petitioned the district to provide recycling pickup at the school. They received recycling containers from King County for each classroom and public space, and they educated the school about proper recycling.

Sierra Heights, Renton School District

In January, Sierra Heights Elementary launched a cafeteria recycling and food composting program. Teacher Brian Teppner received a grant from the Washington Department of Ecology for a worm bin to serve the entire school. To prepare the school for the cafeteria program, his class developed and presented a well-received, all-school assembly on the benefits of recycling and vermicomposting.

Audubon Elementary, Lake Washington School District

Audubon Elementary kicked off a new recycling and food composting program in their lunchroom in November. Teacher Dori West and her fifth-grade students who founded the Make a Better Future

products and have created and posted a [video](#). In March, they plan to hold an eco-friendly car wash.

Terminal Park Reuses Paper

In addition to creating a classroom worm bin, Mike Martin's fourth-grade Green Team at **Terminal Park Elementary** made a paper reuse bin for every classroom at the school.

Students Learn to Reduce Carbon Footprint

With support from a Green Team mini-grant, Lee Rottweiler's Environmental Activism class at the **Attic Learning Community** has focused on reducing greenhouse gases. Projects include collecting food waste in each classroom and composting it in a worm bin, purchasing reusable shopping bags, repairing the on-site greenhouse in order to grow plants to distribute to families, and educating the community about climate change.

Student Council Petitions to Replace Styrofoam Cups

The Student Council at the **Jewish Day School** wrote letters and a petition to send to Jamba Juice, a local place popular with students, asking them to stop using Styrofoam cups and find a compostable alternative. The Council is also working within their own school to replace the Styrofoam cups in the cafeteria with biodegradable corn cups.

Hazards on the Homefront News

Teachers who have taken the Hazards on the Homefront teacher workshop integrate the topic of household hazardous products and their safer alternatives into the curriculum in a variety of ways.

Students Take Action through Letter Writing

Michael McSweeney spent roughly 15 hours teaching his students at the

club led the effort by over 400 students. The first day of the program resulted in over 40 gallons of milk cartons, juice boxes, cans and bottles collected for recycling. Around 25 gallons of food scraps and food soiled paper are collected per day and are picked up twice a week at no additional cost through the City of Redmond's commercial food recycling program, a program available to all schools within the city limits of Redmond and Kirkland. For more information, contact [Sam Wilder](#) at 425-587-3878.

Glacier Park Elementary, Tahoma School District

Teacher Shanda Sciacqua and her Green Team have organized a recycling competition which has motivated a lot of student involvement. In the past 12 months, Glacier Park has increased its recycling rate from 10 percent to 38 percent and continues to make improvements.

Inglewood Junior High, Lake Washington School District

Inglewood Junior High began a cafeteria recycling program this fall to increase recycling of bottles, cans, and milk cartons at school. The school's Green Team promoted the new program and monitored the lunchroom stations to help the school get off to a strong start.

Puget Sound Skills Center about the hazards in common household products and about safer alternatives. Armed with this information, his students wrote letters to such companies as Clorox, Palmolive, and Procter and Gamble, expressing their concern about toxins in everyday household products.

HHW is a Cross-Curricular Topic

Jolly Meloottu created a cross-curricular household hazards project week for students at **Mount Rainier High School**. The projects involved students from all departments, including science, math, English, social studies, and Spanish. Students inventoried the hazardous products in their own homes, then chose a hazardous product to research its impact on humans and the environment, appropriate disposal methods, and safer alternatives.

Teacher Resources

***Rehab the Lab* Videos Available Online**

To learn about high hazard materials, storage, spills and proper disposal of chemicals in school labs, visit the Local Hazardous Waste Management Program's [Rehab the Lab](#) online videos. These video links, broken up into four 20-30 minute segments, teach school staff how to handle hazardous classroom chemicals. These videos are an abbreviated version of the four-hour training offered to school staff.



Take a Wastewater Treatment Plant Tour and Field Trip

Starting with the flush of a toilet...we are all responsible for water quality. Tours and field trips of local wastewater treatment facilities connect students (grades 5-12) with their environment by showing what happens to the water they flush

down drains and toilets everyday. [Tours](#) focus on the role wastewater treatment plays in keeping our environment and communities healthy, how science can be used to produce clean water and valuable resources, and the

importance of personal choices in keeping our local environment healthy. Call 206-263-6028 for more information.

Wheels to Water Provides Transportation

Metro buses are available for select programs that focus on wastewater treatment, water quality, and human influence on environmental health. Contact the [Wheels to Water Program](#) at 206-263-6028.

Scheduling for treatment plant tours and Wheels to Water transportation begins March 1, 2008.

Students Can “Imagine Tomorrow”

How would you power your future? High school students can answer this question about how to address the world's growing energy problems by competing in the [Imagine Tomorrow](#) competition sponsored by Washington State University from May 9-11. Student teams can win thousands of dollars, a trip to Pullman, a tour of research labs, and more.

Recycle Elmer's Glue Bottles and Glue Sticks

[Elmer's Glue](#) has launched a free program to recycle clean glue bottles and sticks. Classrooms can box up clean, empty containers and drop them off at any Wal-Mart store between Earth Day, April 22, 2008 and the end of the school year. Other brands, as long as they are made of plastic labeled either #1 or #2, can also be included.



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