



## **Alexander Graham Bell Elementary School**

**School district:** Lake Washington

**School location:** Kirkland

**Began participating in Green Schools Program:** December 2018

**Level One of the Green Schools Program:** Achieved in May 2019

### **Waste Reduction and Recycling (Level One)**

- The school achieved a recycling rate of 43% and reduced garbage volumes, thanks to the following changes.
- The school made regular announcements about waste reduction and recycling practices within the school community.
- In the cafeteria, the school used durable trays and unwrapped utensils, straws, and napkins.
- The school started to collect food scraps and other compostable materials for transport to a regional composting facility.
- A recycling bin with a recycling sign was placed next to each garbage bin in classrooms, offices, cafeteria, and other areas of the school.
- The fifth-grade leadership class was trained by the Green Schools Program to monitor cafeteria sorting stations.
- At the end of the school year, the school participated in a pilot food share and food donation program with help from the Green Schools Program and City of Kirkland. In a food share bin in the cafeteria, students placed unwanted, unopened packaged foods such as milk cartons, yogurts, and crackers from the school lunch program for other students to take. Leftover items from the share bins plus unwanted whole fruits with edible skins such as apples were picked up by a nonprofit to be given to community members experiencing hunger.