



# Carriage Crest Elementary School

**School district:** Kent

**School location:** Renton

**Began participating in the Green Schools Program:** November 2011

**Level One of the Green Schools Program:** Achieved in January 2013

## Waste Reduction and Recycling (Level One)

- Carriage Crest increased its recycling rate from 38% to 54% after informing students and staff about what materials can be recycled and having student leaders monitor cafeteria recycling stations where empty milk cartons, plastic bottles, and aluminum cans are collected to be recycled.
- The recycling practices at Carriage Crest became part of the school's culture and were supported by principal Susanne Lange-Wick, head custodian Dennis Reed, and head administrative assistant Jodi Goranson as well as teachers and students.
- The principal placed notices about recycling in school newsletters.
- The school had King County's assembly about waste reduction and recycling presented to all students in September 2012.
- Recycling bins and signs from the Green Schools Program were placed in each classroom and office to help students and staff to recycle.
- To reduce waste, the district eliminated straws and replaced the plastic wrapped sets of utensils, napkins, and straws with individual sporks and napkins which students selected from dispensers. Designed to protect health, the dispensers release sporks and napkins one at a time so each utensil and napkin is handled by only one child.