



## **John James Audubon Elementary School**

**School district:** Lake Washington

**School location:** Redmond

**Began participating in Green Schools Program:** September 2019

**Level One of the Green Schools Program:** Achieved in June 2020

**Level Two of the Green Schools Program:** Achieved in June 2023

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

- The school achieved a 58% recycling rate, thanks to education and improved waste reduction and recycling practices.
- In the cafeteria, bulk condiment dispensers and durable trays and utensils were used. Teachers used durable plates, cups, and utensils in their breakroom.
- A Green Schools Program representative conducted an in-person visit to assess current practices, and worked with the school to make improvements.
- Students formed a Green Team which made regular PA announcements with information and tips about waste reduction and recycling practices. With Flipgrid, the team created 41 short videos to share tips on how to protect the environment.
- Green Team students used a Quiz Show game from the Green Schools Program about recycling and waste reduction, and shared it with classes on Smartboards.
- The team created 3-dimensional posters with actual items attached to display near cafeteria recycling, organics, and garbage bins. Stickers from the Green Schools Program showing what materials belong in each bin were placed on all classroom, office, and cafeteria bins.
- To reduce paper use, students in grades 3-5 used OneNote to complete projects online, and the default on school copy machines was set to double-sided.
- Kitchen staff recycled steel cans, plastic jugs, and other recyclable materials in kitchen recycling bins. Food scrap bins were set up in the teacher's breakroom and English language room.



## Healthy school practices

- Physical Education classes encouraged healthy habits. Teachers organized a before- and after-school running club. The PTSA offered basketball, hip hop, tennis, and Taekwondo classes before and after school, and the school maintained a YMCA partnership to provide additional recreational opportunities.
- Green Team members and others were invited to help maintain the school garden twice each week during recess. Students weeded, planted bulbs, pruned, added mulch in the fall, spread broken eggshells to deter slugs and snails in the spring, hung mason bee homes, planted vegetables, including peas and kale, and labeled the plants, flowers, vegetables, and herbs.



## Energy Conservation (Level Two)

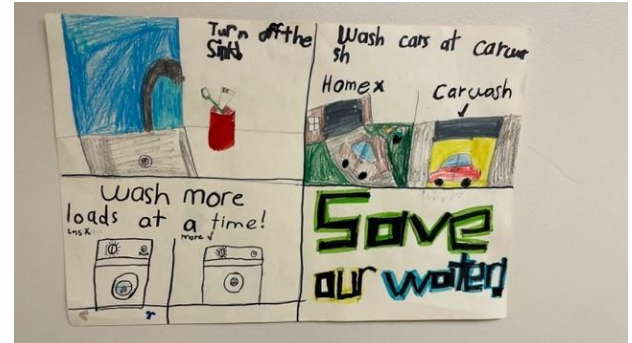
- The school continued and built on its waste reduction and recycling practices while learning about energy conservation.
- With leadership from teachers Monique Celeste, Desiree Woodruff, and Trevor Rudolph, the 25-member student Green Team met twice each week. Monday meetings focused on learning about the environment and conservation practices, and Wednesdays were project days. Instructional assistant Anja Mancano, and custodian Tony Marckese supported the team and conservation practices.
- To maintain and improve waste reduction and recycling:
  - The cafeteria re-introduced reusable utensils to replace the disposable plastic utensils that had been used in the last couple of years.
  - The Green Team used Lumio to create online games for teachers to use in class to reinforce where to place utensils after eating.
  - The Green Team created a video showing how to recycle in the cafeteria and classrooms. Some teachers showed the video to their classes.



# Success Story

Reduce • Reuse • Recycle • Rethink

- Green Team students monitored cafeteria sorting stations to remind students how to sort into the recycling, food scraps, and garbage bins.
- A Green Team advisor created an interactive game on an app for students to practice sorting cafeteria items into recycling and garbage bins.
- To teach Green Team students why energy conservation matters and what steps they could take to conserve energy, Green Team advisors used resources from the Green Schools Program Best Practices Guide on energy conservation.
- To educate the school about energy conservation, the Green Team:
  - Wrote and presented morning announcements and created posters about conserving energy at school and at home.
  - Shared with teachers how to cover Smartboard sensors with Post-It notes so they stay turned off even when there was motion in the room.
  - Made a PowerPoint about energy conservation and shared it in K-4 grade classes and with teachers at a staff meeting.
- Green Team advisors created an online survey for families to learn what they do at home and in their countries of origin to protect the environment.
- “Turn off lights” were posted on light switches and “Turn off equipment” signs on computer equipment and copiers. Teachers opened blinds and turned off lights when there was sufficient natural light. Most computers were set to go into sleep mode to conserve energy.
- LED lights were installed in the parking lot and other outdoor areas of the school.
- The district tracked energy use and costs for all schools.



The Green Team created posters to educate the school about how to conserve energy and water.