

# The Green Times

Mission Statement: Working to save the day the green way!

## Green Easter Nate, Tiona and Anna

Around this time of year, you might see plastic Easter grass and plastic Easter eggs. You might even see huge chocolate bunnies that have lots of plastic and packaging around them. This is really bad for the environment. Please do not use these plastic items. Instead use reusable things like a cloth bag rather than a plastic Easter basket. This bag can be reused. You can also reuse your Christmas wreath by gluing Easter eggs on it and viola, you have an Easter wreath! Another thing you could try is to reuse your plastic eggs instead of throwing them out, but please don't keep your real eggs we don't want your house to stink up. Fill Easter baskets made of natural materials with games, puzzles, Rubix Cubes, and art supplies. For some snacks you could put in fruits, vegetables, or other healthy snacks that don't use a lot of packaging. Be sure to try all these good ideas to help the environment and celebrate Easter by being green.

## How Dams Affect Salmon By Beau, Josephine, Liv, and Cooper

Hydroelectricity is definitely one of our cleanest ways to create power for our homes. But dams aren't exactly hot in the animal world. Why? Read on to find out.

Salmon are one of the key foods for bears, seals, birds, and other wildlife, including us! But dams have an increasing effect on the salmon population. When salmon are born, salmon travel to the ocean, memorizing the way. But when they return, they come back the same way for breeding, and if there is a dam in the way they cannot come back the same way for breeding, thus creating less baby salmon. This is a problem for bears and birds because salmon are one of their main foods.

We think people should build more salmon ladders because they allow salmon and other creatures in the water to move up and down stream. Thus we think dams should have salmon ladders. In this way we will be able to create energy and help animals too.

## How to Start an Organic Garden By Doug, Corinne, Hannah.B, and Diallo

Starting an organic garden can be easy, if you follow these seven simple steps. Step 1: First you must decide what to plant, based on where your garden is located, and then you can go to your local market or plant nursery to purchase your plants or seeds. Step 2: Make sure your garden location has plenty of sunlight for your plants to grow. Step 3: Now that you have your site selected and your seeds or plants picked out, you need to measure your garden to the size you would like. Step 4: Now you need to put the soil in your garden. Make sure the soil is perfect for your garden by having it tested for the right combination of nutrients. The soil is one of the most important parts of your garden. Step 5: Be careful that you don't get chemically grown plants, instead buy organic plants from your local nursery. Step 6: Plant your seeds/plants. For plants, dig a hole twice as deep as your plant's root ball; if it's a seed, put it down as deep as half way on your pinky finger. Step 7: Remember to water your plants four to seven times a week, but don't over water them. We hope these steps help you build an organic garden. Good luck!

## Organic Pesticides By Marlowe, Kayla, and Matt

Have you been growing organic plants but you just can't find a natural way to get rid of pests? Even if you've haven't been organic gardening already, why not start now?

One of the many ways you can repel pests is with garlic. Planting garlic around tomatoes will keep away Red Spider Mites. Do the same thing around fruit trees and it will repel Borers. If you put garlic around roses it will repel aphids.

Boric acid is also another consistent way to kill ants, roaches, ticks, grasshoppers, termites and more. Also onion and mint are a fantastic way to repel fleas and beetles.

Another great way to keep out insects is to make your own insect repellent spray. First add four or five pints of water and one tablespoon of cornstarch to tomato leaves crushed in your vegetable juicer. Then strain it. Keep the unused spray refrigerator. You can spray it on all kinds of plants, and it works good on roses too.

Finally, try sprinkling pencil shavings on top of soil to keep bugs out of your house plants. Now that we have shown you great ways to repel pests, try them out!

## Germ Investigation

By, August

Ms. Lee's class did a germ investigation. We got Petri dishes, agar plates, clean cotton swabs, and places we thought were dirty in the classroom. We took the clean cotton swabs, by the middle and carefully swabbed places in the room. We wiped the agar plates with the cotton swabs. We left it to sit for a week. When we looked at them you would not even need a hand lens to see the germ colonies. Our group swabbed Ms. Lee's mouse on the computer, Karl's chair, Holden's stuffed dog, and the door knob. Ms. Lee's mouse had the most germ colonies, and Karl's chair had the least amount of germ colonies. Remember if you do the investigation to wash your hands after you do the dirty things in the investigation. You will want to do it. Trust me!



## Planting a Better Spring

By Emily, Clare, Patrick, Sebastian

To plant a better spring garden, we have some garden tips for you.

1. Don't throw away those extra seeds left over from planting. Most seeds will last about three to four years.
2. Another fantastic tip we have is if you have hanging plants and you want mess free watering, use ice cubes. They will melt after five to ten minutes.
3. A small extension curtain rod makes a good support for tall plants.
4. After pruning, close all tree wounds with pruning paint to prevent Borers.
5. Picking off flower petals frequently encourages most annuals to flower more abundantly.

All these tips will help you and your garden this spring by looking beautiful and being fresh.

## Tree Cruelty

By Lee, Eli B., Rachel, and Alex

This past December, someone cut down a tree from the Montlake Arboretum for their own Christmas tree. It was a Chinese tree called a Keeteleeria Evelyniana. It is nearly impossible to replace. This isn't the first time someone has cut down a tree from the Arboretum. A couple of years ago, a man that worked at a restaurant had an unusual Fir Tree. When his manager figured out what had happened, he immediately turned his employee in. To prevent things like this from happening, city officials are thinking of putting foul smelling animal urine on trees to keep people from cutting them down. Remember to keep an open eye for anyone cutting down trees in the Arboretum.

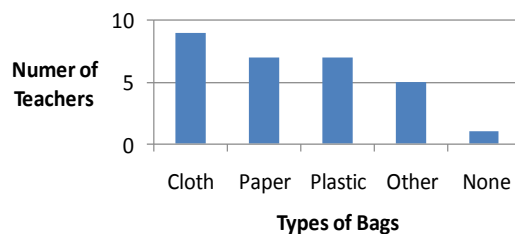


## How Many Teachers Reuse Shopping Bags?

By, Brittany, Helen, Taylor, and Eli M.

Have you ever wondered if teachers reuse their shopping bags? Well the answer is that the majority of teachers do reuse their shopping bags; take a look.

### How Many Teachers Reuse Shopping Bags



If you look at this graph that you can tell we are telling the truth. Overall, twelve teachers reuse either cloth, paper, plastic, or other types of bags. Many teachers reuse multiple types of bags. Even though there are some teachers that don't reuse their bags, that doesn't mean you shouldn't reuse. If you don't have reusable bags than start collecting! If you want to know more just ask Brittany, Helen, Eli, or Taylor.