

The Green Times

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

The Greenhouse Scoop

By Diallo

We asked Ms. Bloom about the Greenhouse and what we are going to do this year.

Recently, Teams 2 and 3 started a project on making scale drawings of the garden beds so we can know what to plant this spring. Ms. Bloom is planning what we'll plant and is looking at seed lists and the University of Washington's farm project for ideas. She is also looking for heirloom vegetables specifically from the northwest. As Ms. Bloom says, "Growing what's fun to eat is always a good choice!" Mr. Schultz and Ms. Bloom are planning on having Team 3 go on a fieldtrip to the University of Washington farm in the spring.

Ms. Bloom is working on getting the outdoor classroom done. In the main hallway there is a drawing of what the outdoor classroom will look like when finished. We are also planning on having a planting party by Arbor week. When the outdoor classroom is finished, we will either buy or make birdhouses as well.

Shout out to Martha Ways and Reagan Wetter for "adopting" the Shakespeare garden. It is looking great and they likely have more ideas on what to do next. Also, Laura Gardner tested making grape jelly from the Greenhouse grapes and said it was delicious so we might try making that next year!

Kindle Pros and Cons

By Beau, Doug and Eli B.

Have you heard of Amazon's new "green" Kindle? We have some pros and cons to decide whether you should buy a Kindle or not, and whether you think it is a green product.

Pros:

1. It uses less shelf space.
2. It doesn't use paper.
3. The small Kindle holds 1500 books and the large Kindle holds 3500 books.
4. After we did the math, on average you would save more money on books with the Kindle opposed to paper books.

Cons:

1. When made, the Kindle emits harmful chemicals and carbon dioxide.
2. The Kindle alone is very expensive.
3. It will take some getting used to after the switch from books to Kindle.
4. Charging the Kindle uses electricity.

All these facts are about the same as other similar products such as Barnes and Noble's "Nook" or Sony's "e-reader". After looking at the Kindle we have decided that it might be better than books. But it is up to you to decide if it is green or not. We hope this will help you decide if you want a Kindle or not. Happy reading!

Green Transportation

By Josephine, Lee, and Rachel

Are you tired of spending money to park your car at the airport? If so, try out our new energy saving, green light rail that is now able to travel all the way from Westlake to SeaTac Airport! The fares? No problem! For kids it's \$2.00, seniors are \$1.25, and adults are \$2.50.

Another green option is Zipcar! They are located all over the city. When you join, a year of doing Zipcar is \$50.00, hourly rates are \$7.00 and daily rates are \$69.00 and it includes gas, insurance and 180 free miles!

We hope you can try the light rail or Zipcar to your advantage. Have a great, 2010!

Locavore Column

By Luke

Here in Seattle, getting your local food is different than when you live in the woods. In Seattle, you go to your farmers' market, Pike Place Market, or your local grocery store to get fruit, vegetables, cheese, rice, and even local meat. And Pagliacci Pizza is going local, so that's another local thing.

But if you live out in the woods, pretty far from anyone else, you might get some of your local food a different way – at least your meat and fish. For example, my cousin Peter shot a deer when we were visiting him on Vancouver Island for New Year's. He made chili out of it. I don't know how I feel about this. Maybe I should become a vegetarian. Except for ham.

<p style="text-align: center;">Green Team By Clare, Helen, Marlowe, and Kayla</p> <p>Recently the Green Team succeeded in getting the waste and recycling certificate! We met every Wednesday at lunchtime to talk about how we were going to earn this certificate. One idea was to go around to classes and prompt them to have greener lunches like to use Re-Usies or plastic containers. We also weighed the garbage, compost and recycling at the end of the day and sent it in. We currently have 260 points for signing up for the competition. The Green Team is also trying to earn money to paint the garbage cans the color they should be, for example, blue means recycling and red means "landfill." We hope Montlake can help us get the next certificate, energy. After this letter encourage yourself and your family to live a green life.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Green Poems By Matt and Patrick</p> <table border="1" style="width: 100%;"> <tr> <td style="width: 50%; vertical-align: top;"> <p>Be green Eco – friendly</p> <p>Gardens Recycle Eat organic Eat local No chemicals</p> </td> <td style="width: 50%; vertical-align: top;"> <p>Environment Compost Organic</p> <p>Fight pollution Run not drive Introduce new parks Electric cars No driving Drive less Local Your own garden</p> </td> </tr> </table>	<p>Be green Eco – friendly</p> <p>Gardens Recycle Eat organic Eat local No chemicals</p>	<p>Environment Compost Organic</p> <p>Fight pollution Run not drive Introduce new parks Electric cars No driving Drive less Local Your own garden</p>
<p>Be green Eco – friendly</p> <p>Gardens Recycle Eat organic Eat local No chemicals</p>	<p>Environment Compost Organic</p> <p>Fight pollution Run not drive Introduce new parks Electric cars No driving Drive less Local Your own garden</p>		
<p style="text-align: center;">Composting By Brittany, Taylor, and Tiona</p> <p>Welcome to the wonderful world of composting! Composting is a good way of reusing food instead of throwing it in the garbage. What some people do is they put their compost in a bucket or in their yard waste.</p> <p>Compost is simply just decomposed organic material. It is also a rich, good smelling soil. Compost is a very good garden addition. It helps the plants grow and it shows that you are re-using. Compost is great for the gardens because it improves the soil which in turn supports healthier and more productive plants. Compost can make your plants really healthy. It can also improve the soil structure, making it easier for the soil to hold and use the right amount of moisture and air. It will also improve both sandy soil and clay.</p> <p>If lids of compost bins are open, it can attract unwanted animals. Open bins can also become too wet or be an eye sore to your neighbors. I hope you noticed how to be green with compost.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Green Lunch Survey By Corinne, Hannah, and Liv</p> <p>We conducted green lunch surveys for Team 1, Team 2 and Team 3 to see who buys hot lunch, uses plastic bags, reuses plastic bags, or uses reusable containers. We surveyed two boys and two girls from each class, for a total of 16 students from Team 1, and 12 students from Teams 2 and 3.</p> <p>In Team 3, five people reuse plastic bags, two people use plastic bags and throw them away, one person uses reusable containers, and four people buy hot lunch. In Team 2, five people reuse plastic bags, no one uses plastic bags and throws them away, four people use reusable containers, and three people buy hot lunch. In Team 1, four people reuse plastic bags, no one uses plastic bags and throws them away, seven people use reusable containers, and five people buy hot lunch.</p> <p>Overall, the most students surveyed reuse plastic bags, with 14 total reusing plastic bags in their lunch. The least number of students throw away plastic bags, with only two students total. This shows that we are doing a good job reducing waste. Good job Montlake!</p>		
<p style="text-align: center;">Why Care About Recycling and Waste Reduction? By Anna, Emily, and Eli M.</p> <p>Fifty years ago in 1960, Americans created over two and a half pounds of waste per day. In 2007, they generated 4.62 pounds per day! The amount of waste created in 2007 was significantly more than that produced than in 1960. Of that amount, Americans recycled sixty three million tons of materials and composted 27 tons of organic waste.</p> <p>Where does all this waste go? One way to handle waste is by sending it away to a landfill where it is buried. There are over seventy-five active landfills in Washington State; some of this garbage produced is carried long distances by train before it reaches its final destination. Some of the waste is combusted at waste to energy facilities to create energy. Waste that contains toxic chemicals is handled separately as hazardous waste. Depending on the material, hazardous wastes can be reused, neutralized (only if they are corrosive), blended into other products, incinerated, or placed in a specially lined hazardous waste landfill. Recycled items are recreated into new products. Yard waste and food scraps are turned into compost. This is good since this makes up 2/3 of the waste Americans throw away.</p> <p>We'd like you to think about these questions. What would happen if we did not have recycling? What is recycled around your house? Are there more things you can recycle?</p>			

