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GREEN STAR SCHOOLS® NEWS

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WELCOME SILVER CREEK HIGH!

This fall, Silver Creek High School became the 56th Green Star School, SVVSD's first full-size Green Star High School and the first Green Star High School in Longmont! Silver Creek's Enviro Club led the charge for their school's Green Star School Launch. In this creative Green Star Schools [video](#), students highlight the benefits of composting, address specific sorting in Silver Creek's school community and inspire a greener future!



REDUCE, REUSE, REREAD!



Students select books

At Northridge Elementary, librarian Amy Gallaher ensures that students have a plentiful supply of books to read at the library and at home. Amy spends time outside of school perusing through used bookstores, thrift stores, and community book sources to add to the school's library. This saves the school money on new books, while supporting local businesses and reuse.

Parents and teachers supported Amy's efforts by donating books from their homes.

Before school starts in the fall, Amy sorts through over 500 books. During the first week of library classes, Amy creates a free book table where each student can pick two books to take home. During Northridge's Fall Festival, students were able to select unlimited books from the library's free book table. Parents and adults were excited for the opportunity to select books for younger siblings who are not Northridge students yet. The library was able to provide nearly 400 books to Northridge families at this event!

Additionally, Amy creates a bundle of books for every Kindergarten and 1st grade student for extra reading practice with their adults at home.

Northridge students also share Amy's love of books! In 2019, a student raised funds to purchase a little free library box through a genius hour project, which promotes reading at school. While the project was delayed last year, the Little Free Library is now installed outside of Northridge Elementary, providing free books for the community!



Northridge Elementary Little Free Library

Amy is collaborating with Eco-Cycle's Children's Used Book Project to add to Northridge Elementary's growing library collection.



Eco-Cycle's Children's Used Book Project provides free books for school fundraisers, classroom libraries and student incentives. We have a wide variety of reading levels and topics available.

Contact books@ecocycle.org for more information.

KEEPING SCHOOLS CLEAN & GREEN!

At Ryan Elementary, Nate Fuller, Head Custodian and Co-Zero Waste Advocate, coordinates student volunteers in 3rd-5th grade on the Ryan Trash Task Force.



Ryan Trash Task Force

He created the task force last year to keep Ryan Elementary's playground and surrounding areas free of litter. The Ryan Trash Task Force meets on Tuesday and Thursday mornings to pick up litter and lost clothing items.

This year, Nate introduced a competition that tracks how many pieces of litter students recover. The grade-level team that removes the most items wins a class pizza party and "The Golden Trash Claw" award. This competition has been a huge hit with students and teachers alike. They are happy to know that they are helping their school and classmates as well as the community.

Contributed by Nate Fuller, Head Custodian, Ryan Elementary

ZERO WASTE SCHOOLS COMMUNITY EVENTS

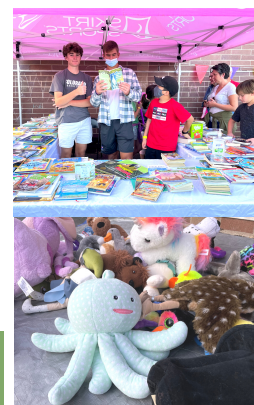
Continuing an 11-year tradition, Bear Creek Elementary's Carnival was back on this fall! Fifth graders played a big role in the planning process, working hard to limit plastic trinkets when choosing their games and prizes.

Food trucks at the event use compostable or recyclable serving ware in order to reduce single-use plastic waste. The PTO offers compostable ware to food trucks that do not have them available.

Eco-Cycle has assisted with waste education and sorting at Bear Creek Carnival's Zero Waste Event since 2013!

"It is so easy to do, people should not be intimidated by it. It doesn't take much effort to be Zero Waste."

Leigh Gannan, Bear Creek Carnival food coordinator



Donated, lightly-used stuffed animals and books are used for prizes.



Eco-Cycle's Zero Waste Goalie

Boulder's Columbine Elementary also hosted their carnival this fall as a Zero Waste Event! Eco-Cycle staff were present to support community sorting of compostable and recyclable waste near food trucks and eating areas.

Hosting a school community event? Want to make it Zero Waste?
Contact kathy@ecocycle.org for support!

REDUCE, REUSE, RECYCLE POSTER CONTEST

Eisenhower EcoEagle Ambassadors wanted to raise awareness about single-use plastics. A 2nd grade student suggested a school-wide poster contest, so the EcoEagle Ambassadors set to planning!

Theme: "How can I reduce, reuse or recycle more plastic?"

Rules: The poster could be any size and made from any material, must relate to the theme and be clear and easy to read.

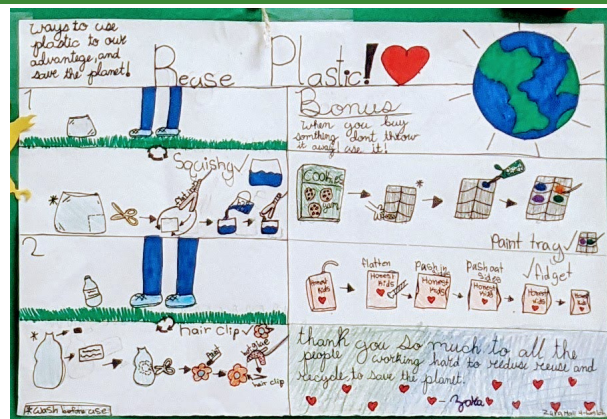
Implementation: EcoEagles advertised the contest in their classes and made reminder announcements over the intercom.

Judging: The EcoEagles Ambassadors judged numerous posters submitted from each grade level throughout the school. This made judging fun, interesting and challenging for the EcoEagles.

Outcome: All participants received a certificate of recognition. Winners received earth-friendly and non-plastic prizes, their names were read during school announcements and they received recognition in the school newsletter. Winning posters were displayed in the school cafeteria. The grand prize winner also received a beeswax sandwich wrap!

EcoEagles loved designing and implementing the contest. It addressed their goal to raise awareness of issues related to single-use plastics and encouraged zero waste practices. They are looking forward to more projects to support Eisenhower's sustainability efforts!

Contributed by Marti Hirsch, Eisenhower Zero Waste Advocate, Green Team Leader



Reduce, Reuse, Recycle Winning Poster

REDUCING FOOD WASTE

Did you know more food is wasted in the United States than in any other country? Nearly 40 million tons, 30-40% of the entire U.S. food supply, is wasted each year. Green Star Schools are helping to reduce food waste through the following programs:




SVVSD Food Sharing Station

In SVVSD, new Food Rescue Stations were purchased through the BOCO Zero Waste Grant. In the student-created film, "Meet the Food Sharing Station," Eagle Crest's Eco Eagles introduce the food sharing station, explain what can be shared, and highlight the benefits of the food share station. The Food Share Station "helps us build a better world, it cuts down on food waste, fights hunger, and saves our school money."

In BVSD, six schools use student-interfacing waste tracking devices called LeanPath, which closely monitors food waste in the cafeteria. LeanPath helps students regain awareness and interest in properly sorting their waste. Its real-time data provides a unique learning tool that can be used to empower students to understand the shared impact a school community has and how they can make a difference. BVSD hopes to expand this programming and implement LeanPath devices in three more student cafeterias.

GREEN IDEAS FROM GREEN TEAMS


 At Boulder High, the Eco-Warriors Environmental Club members volunteer as waste-goalies during lunch periods, educating and rewarding students who sort their waste properly. Additionally, science teachers are in the cafeteria weekly, to support students with waste education and sorting.

Teams of students collect recycling from the building and deliver it to the recycle dumpster. These efforts support waste reduction and custodians at Boulder High!

The Environmental Science class made waste sorting videos for Panther TV that are shared with the whole school. Topics include:

- How to properly sort waste such as food boats, leftover food, containers and waste from nearby restaurants,
- Incentives for students to properly sort their waste and
- Recruiting more students to be waste goalies.

Contributed by Julie Thompson, Teacher, Boulder High School

 The NetZero Club at Summit Middle School promoted walk to school day with a raffle, helped manage the waste stream at lunch and showed "High Seas," a documentary from the Our Planet series about the ocean and conservation.


Contributed by the NetZero Club, Summit Middle School



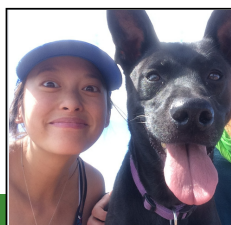
Altona's waste sort training materials



WEB students in the garden

 Altona's 8th grade leadership team, Where Everyone Belongs (WEB), promotes a clean campus by doing weekly grounds clean-up and waste sorting. In addition, they support 6th and 7th graders by training them how to sort lunch waste. WEB students are very excited to get the school garden up and running again! Kudos to these great leaders who are setting an amazing example for Altona students!

Contributed by Jessica Campbell, Teacher, Altona Middle School



As the new Green Star Schools Program Manager, I want to thank all of our schools and the Green Star School Community. It has been my pleasure and privilege to work with staff and students throughout Boulder County. I look forward to our continued partnership!

Please contact me if I can support waste reduction efforts of your students and school. *Kathy*
kathy@ecocycle.org or call 303-444-6634, ext. 141