

Special Edition

Volume 1 Issue 1

WHS

# GREEN STATION



STAY GREEN...  
READ ME  
ONLINE!

*Whitehouse School Student Voice Reps work  
collaboratively to promote GREEN actions!*

50 Whitehouse Avenue, Whitehouse Station, New Jersey 08889

# From Your Principal...

**Dr. Ann T. DeRosa**

aderosa@readington.k12.nj.us

Dear WHS Friends and Families:

Whitehouse School was recently honored as one of only five schools in the state to receive the Silver level certification through the Sustainable Jersey Schools program. Our focus on wellness and efforts to preserve our environment have been well-supported in our district, in addition to the greater school community.

We subsequently received the 2015 National Wildlife Federation Eco-Schools USA Silver Award. As we continue our green mission, we want to keep you informed as we share our programs and facility augmentations.

- We were thrilled to receive a small grant in the amount of \$2,000 sponsored through PSE&G and supported by Sustainable Jersey Schools and the New Jersey Education Association. The money was utilized to purchase a water bottle refilling station that is now located in the hallway outside of our library. Staff members and students will have cold, filtered water available AND be able to reduce waste by using less plastic disposable water bottles.
- This year, we were also very grateful that our local B.J.'s in Flemington provided us with funding through their Adopt-A-School Program. The money enabled us to purchase two weather stations for our school. All students will now be able to become more familiar with weather concepts.
- We also worked with our Rutgers Master Gardeners to enhance our composting program and were able to buy two tumbling composters. The upgraded composters will make the process more efficient and effective as all grade levels work to grow vegetables, fruits, and plants in our school garden. In addition, we have had a rain barrel installed so that we can utilize rain water in the gardens.
- Each morning, when our Head Custodian, Mr. Runyon, raises the American flag, he also displays the appropriate outdoor air quality flag based on official updates posted on our website. Students then change the Outdoor Air Quality flags on the charts both near the Main Office, and in the Cafeteria posted near the door that they use to go out to recess.

Our very active student green team members assume the role of stewards as they facilitate green projects and promote the tenets associated with our GREEN TEAM acronym (Grow, Recycle, Earth, Energy, Nutrition, Technology, Efficiency, Activism, & Movement). Check out Mrs. Yukniewicz's video: <https://vimeo.com/148656508>

You may also remember that our school had a Science Leadership Team that was trained through our partnership with Merck (MISE) when the corporate headquarters offices were situated in our town. Guided by those experiences and our work with the *Next Generation Science Standards* & the effective practices of science instruction, we have continued to make science a priority. Each grade level has a science or STEM Lab and this year, we began featuring monthly STEM speakers from the community who address our students.

We are proud of our efforts at Whitehouse School. As we continue to seek ways to reduce our environmental impact, we do so with the determination to change behaviors that better serve and sustain our environment.

Thank you in advance for your support. If you have any ideas or would like to further contribute in any area, please let us know. We will continue to electronically update this magazine when we have new green happenings to report!

Warmly,

Ann T. DeRosa, Ed.D.



# Whitehouse School was one of only five other NJ schools to receive Silver Level Certification!

In addition, our district won the Sustainability Leadership Award for all of our GREEN progress. WHS will continue to focus on wellness and efforts to preserve our environment.





Help us Earn Supplies and Money for our School!

Through Terracycle  
Recycling Program,  
we collect the following  
items:



## Personal Care and Beauty Waste

- Hair Care Packaging: shampoo/conditioner bottles and hair gel tubes
- Skin Care Packaging: lip balm tubes, face soap dispensers and tubes of face lotion bottles

Cosmetics Packaging: lipstick cases, lip gloss tubes, mascara tubes, eye shadow cases, bronzer cases, foundation packaging and bottles, powder cases, and eyeliner pencils

**We also collect and recycle  
the following items...**



Recycled Ink Cartridges



Campbell's Soup Labels



**Help us Earn Supplies and  
Money for our School**

# Rain Barrel



**Our rain barrel is located next to our garden area.**

**The rain barrel at Whitehouse School collects and stores rainwater from the school roof that would otherwise be lost to runoff and diverted to storm drains and streams. Rain barrels are beneficial because they not only help protect the environment, they also save money and energy!**

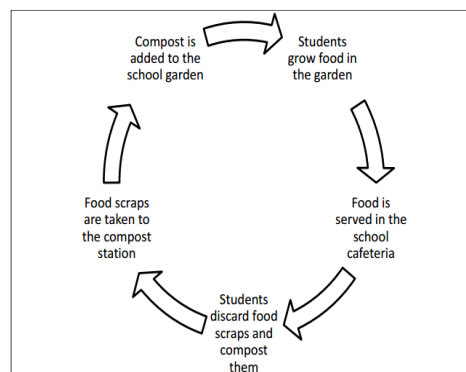
# Composting

Did you know that our students are composting at school? Composting is a way to promote a responsible and environmentally-friendly way to deal with waste.

Along with saving landfill space, school composting programs have many benefits:

- Compost, as a finished product, enhances the soil and plant quality in our school vegetable gardens.
- The process provides educational opportunities that promote sustainable environmental practices.
- It also provides a medium for many environmental and science-related topics of discovery.
- It creates opportunities for student responsibility and activism.

Compost happens when materials are gathered in a bin or pile, moistened, and aerated. Fungi, bacteria, and invertebrates are able to take over and composting happens. In the end, the finished product is *humus*, a dark brown organic matter which builds up soil, saves space in the landfill, and teaches school children how nature recycles.





# Outdoor Air Quality



How much pollution is in the air today? You can find out by simply looking at the flag pole. Our school has adopted the Air Quality Flag Program which means we will fly brightly colored flags to show how clean the air is each day. The flags correspond to the colors of the Air Quality Index ([www.airnow.gov](http://www.airnow.gov)). The AQI is an index for reporting daily air quality. It tells you how clean or polluted your air is, and what associated health effects might be a concern for you.

The good news is the Air Quality Flag Program helps protect students' health. On green and yellow days we will encourage students to be outside and moving. When air quality is orange or red, it is still OK to play outside, but we will encourage kids to take some breaks and to do activities that might involve walking and jogging instead of running and sprinting. If the flag is purple, we will play inside that day. The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency is promoting the Air Quality Flag Program to schools in many U.S. cities and we are proud to be involved. For more information on the Flag Program, go to [www.airnow.gov/flag](http://www.airnow.gov/flag).



# “No Idle Zone”

Help Us Help the Environment!



Our district has adopted an anti-idling policy (#7471). It states that buses and motor vehicles are not permitted to have their engines on when they are stopped or parked.

The policy is meant to help reduce harmful emissions that pollute the air. (There are a few exceptions during extreme weather conditions.)

Thank you in advance for your cooperation as you assist us in our efforts.

# Green Apple Day of Service



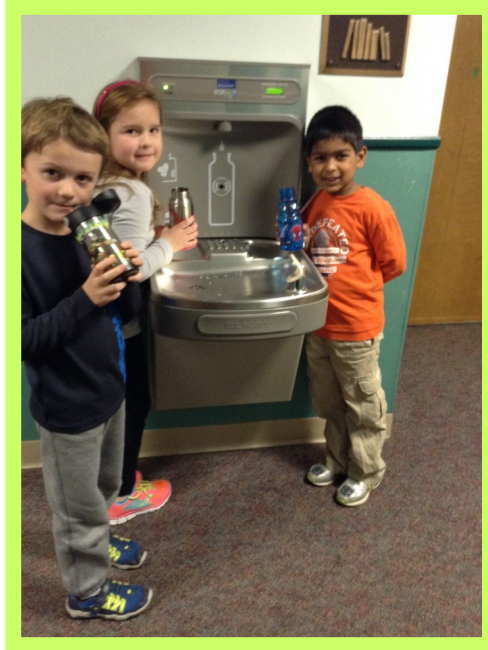
Student Voice members spent the morning of Saturday, September 26 at the Readington Community Garden as part of the National Green Apple Day of Service. Working under the direction of community members, Mr. Chip Shepherd and Mr. Dan Allen, the students helped with gardening and clean-up, including planting lettuce and harvesting potatoes, as well as a variety of other vegetables. Additionally they had the chance to pick apples and pears!

The Green Apple Day of Service gives parents, teachers, students, companies and local organizations the forum to transform schools into healthy, safe and productive learning environments through local service projects. The Center for Green Schools at the U.S. Green Building Council (USGBC) is the organization behind the Green Apple movement, working to ensure that every student has the opportunity to attend a green school within *this* generation.



# Water Bottle Filling Station

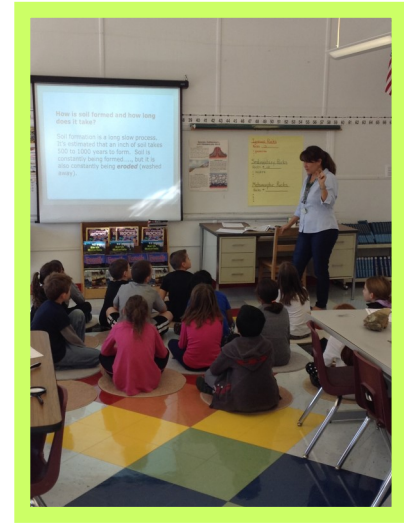
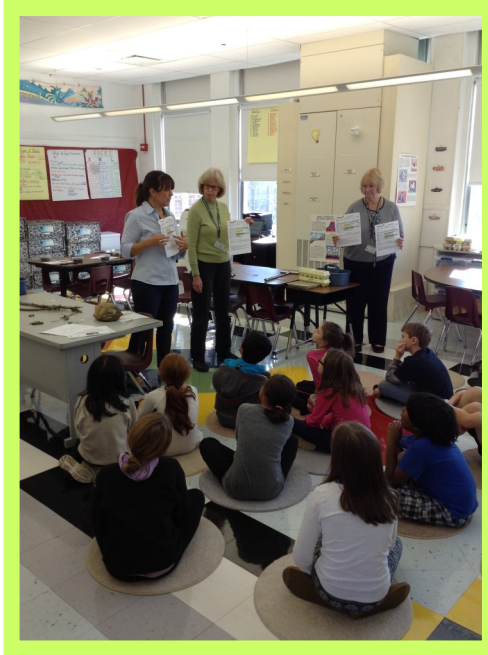
**WHS has its very own water bottle filling station for students to refill throughout the day!**



Did you know that every hour Americans throw away 2.5 million plastic bottles? Using a reusable water bottle is an easy way to reduce waste in a landfill and help protect the environment. By continually producing more bottles, we utilize a tremendous amount of energy and resources. The benefits of a reusable water bottle are two-fold. First we preserve the environment by creating less pollution. Second, we help humankind by reducing the toxins that are released during plastic production. This results in a cleaner, healthier world.



# Rutgers Master Gardeners



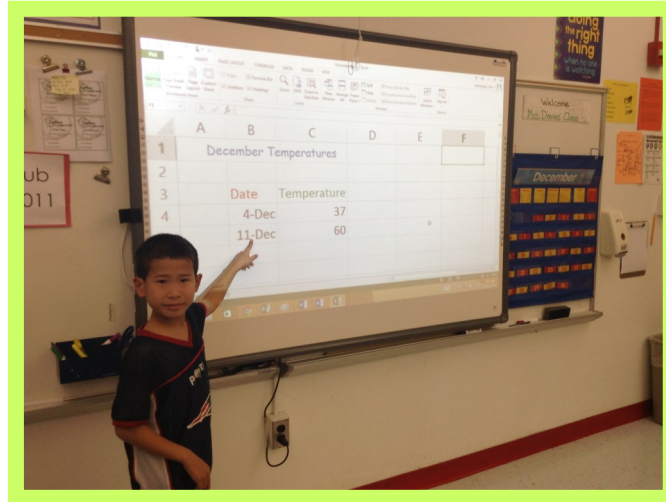
Teacher liaisons worked under the direction of Mrs. Laurie Fischer and the Master Gardeners. Students now have a greater understanding of gardening and the chemistry associated with composting. After having our garden bed soils professionally tested, they shared the results with students.



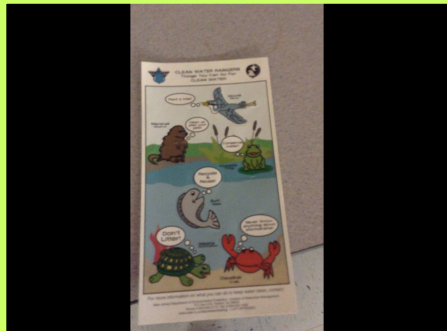
# Weather Station



WHS was able to purchase two weather stations with money received from our local BJ's Club as their 2015-16 Adopt-A-School recipient! Our weather station data is tracked by students on Excel spreadsheets in computer class. All grade levels will now have the opportunity to discuss and examine data from the weather stations either in computer class and/or science class.



# Raritan Headwaters Association



Our staff member, Mrs. Antoinette Boccuzzi, and the Director of Environmental Education at the Raritan Headwaters Association, Ms. Lauren Theis, spoke to third graders about STEM careers and, more immediately, how they could help protect our waterways. Some tips included never throw anything down a storm drain, clean up after your pets, don't litter, recycle & reuse, conserve water, and plant a tree.



# ENERGY-SAVING PROGRESS

Throughout our district we have been working to carry out the energy efficiency strategies recommended as part of the SEE Program. To monitor our progress, utility bill data is tracked and reported quarterly for each facility. Utility tracking allows us to monitor energy use, identify opportunities and adjust our approach as we move forward. District wide, we have reduced our energy use by 22% over the summer from June through August 2015 compared to the baseline year.

## ENERGY SAVINGS PROGRESS SUMMARY REPORT Client: Readington Township School District

Building	Rank	% Change Electric	% Change Nat Gas	% Change Total Energy (Btu)	% Change Electric Demand	Avoided Cost
Holland Brook School	1	-18%	-34%	-26%	-2%	\$12,274
Whitehouse School	2	-27%	-25%	-26%	-11%	\$5,427
Three Bridges School	3	-22%	-37%	-23%	-25%	\$3,664
Readington Middle School	4	-6%	28%	-3%	-17%	\$2,641
<b>Grand Total</b>		-18%	-31%	-22%	-12%	\$24,006

This report highlights our district's energy saving results and avoided energy costs for the current period compared to the same period in the baseline year.

- A negative % change = a reduction in energy use and a positive % change = an increase in energy use.
- The % Change Total Energy column combines the electric and natural gas/inventoried fuel results by converting them to the common reporting unit of British Thermal Units (Btu) for a measurement of total energy change.
- Electric Demand is a measurement of the peak electric usage over the course of a utility billing cycle and is billed as a separate component in most commercial electric bills.
- Avoided Cost is a calculation of energy dollars that would have been spent had energy not been saved.