



WHITEHOUSE SCHOOL GREEN SCENE

2016 - 2017



**STAY GREEN...
READ ME
ONLINE!**

***Madison & Elizabeth Dorman joined our school community
and scientists from Raritan Headwaters Association
as we cleaned up the river on
National Green Apple Day of Service.***



Green Thoughts from your Principal...



Dear WHS Friends and Families:

As you probably already know, Whitehouse School was recently honored at both the state and national levels. We were named a *2016 U.S. Department of Education Green Ribbon School*. In July 2016, I travelled to Washington, D.C. to accept this very prestigious award! I was thrilled to be joined by our Superintendent, Dr. Barbara Sargent, the District Facilities Manager, Mr. Don Race, and our Guidance Counselor, Mrs. Debbie DeBaro. We all had a lot of fun, even receiving special clearance to tour the White House, which was an amazing experience!

We appreciate your support. Our focus on wellness and work to preserve our environment have also been encouraged in our district and in the greater school community. As we continue our green mission, we want to keep you informed as we share our programs and facility augmentations. Here are some of our other recent awards and distinctions:

- SAIF Award—for the past 10 years
- 2015 NJ Sustainable Schools Silver Level Award Recipient
- 2015 NJ Sustainable Schools District Leadership Award Recipient
- 2015 Sustainable Jersey for Schools/NJEA Grant in the amount of \$2,000 for Whitehouse School
- 2015 Sustainable Jersey Grant from the Gardinier Environmental Fund in Amount of \$10,000 for the district
- 2015 Eco-Schools USA Silver Award
- 2014 New Jersey Department of Education High Performing Rewards School Grant Recipient of \$29,654
- 2015 PACNJ Asthma Friendly School Award

Our very active student green team members continue to 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/146427453>

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. We now enjoy a similar partnership with Mickelson/ExxonMobil. Guided by those experiences and our work with the *Next Generation Science Standards*, we continue to make science a priority. Each grade level has a science or STEM Lab and we now have a school MakerSpace & Tinker Lab. This year, we expanded our monthly community STEM speaker presentations by including second graders, as well as third graders.

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. We plan to pursue re-certification in the Spring/Summer 2017.



Help us Earn Supplies and Money for our School!

Through TerraCycle,
a 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...**



Used 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

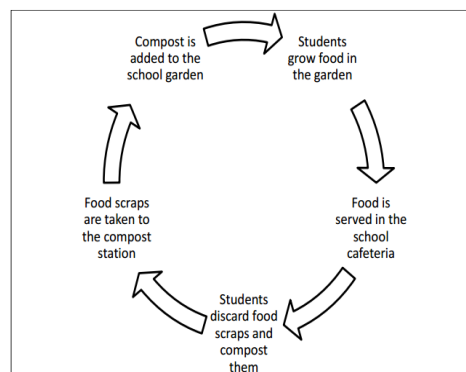
WHS HAS TWO TUMBLING COMPOSTERS & ONE LASAGNA COMPOSTER!

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). 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.

Each morning, when our Head Custodian, Mr. Runyon, raises the American flag, he also continues to display 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.

“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.

National Character Day & National Green Apple Day of Service

We are Cubs of Character !!!

As a character-based school, we strive to be of service and show good character all year long.

September 2016 was special because of two key national celebrations.

National Character Day was on September 22 and National Green Apple Day of Service followed two days later on Saturday, September 24.

We began with a focus on water conservation and cleanliness, culminating with a River Friendly Clean-Up service project at the South Branch Raritan River. September's character theme at Whitehouse School was *responsibility*. As a 2016 U.S. Department of Education Green Ribbon School award recipient, we spent the month discussing the *responsibility* that we have to our environment and the Earth. Children shaded in a piece of their character-building buckets as they performed *responsible* acts throughout the month. As an entire school community, we made entries into our SEL (Social-Emotional Learning) Reflection Journals (courtesy of Walmart in Branchburg) as we responded to the prompts: *What traits do people show to display good character? How have you been of good service to your school and others?*



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

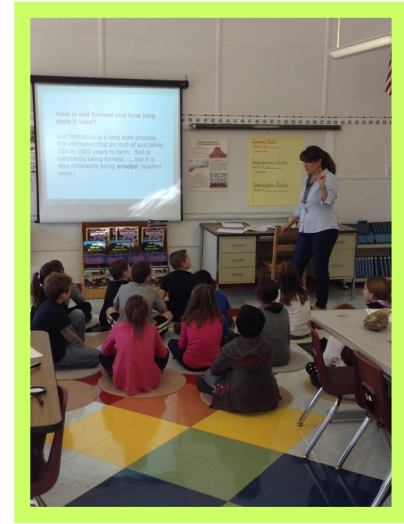
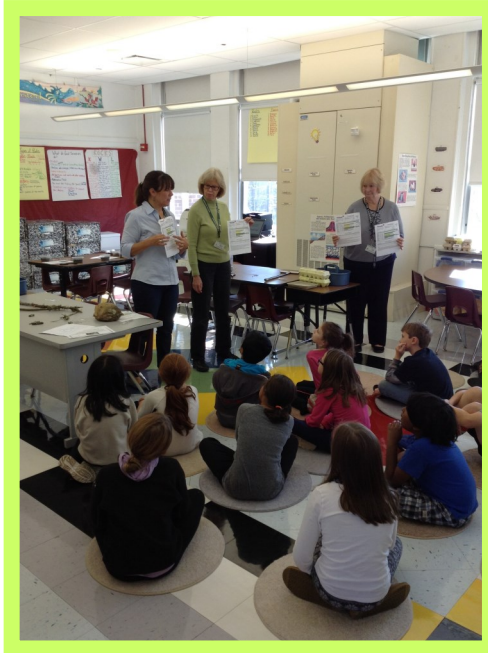
WHS has its very own water bottle filling station for students to refill throughout the day!

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 now have cold, filtered water available AND are able to reduce waste by using less plastic disposable water bottles.

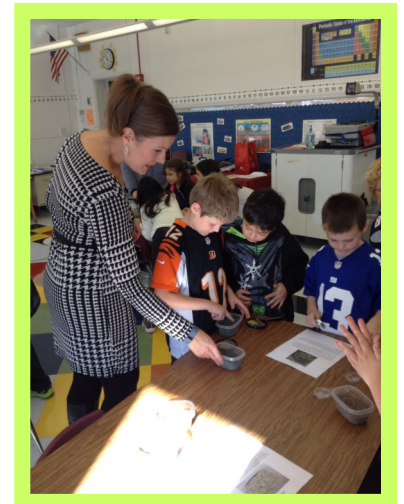


Did you know that every hour Americans throw away 2.5 million plastic bottles? Using a reusable water bottle is an easy way to reduce waste in a landfill and help protect the environment. By continually producing more bottles, we utilize a tremendous amount of energy and resources. The benefits of a 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 work 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



Whitehouse School was able to purchase two weather stations with money received from our local BJ's Club through its Adopt-A-School Program. Our weather station data is tracked by students on Excel spreadsheets in computer class. All grade levels 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 students about STEM careers and, more immediately, how they can help protect our waterways. Some advice the Raritan Headwaters scientists give is to never litter or throw anything down a storm drain, clean up after our pets, recycle & reuse, conserve water, and regularly plant trees.

ENERGY-SAVING PROGRESS

Since 2011, throughout our district we have been working to carry out the energy efficiency strategies recommended as originally 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. For example, district-wide, we reduced our energy usage by 22% over the summer from June through August 2015 compared to the baseline year. We look forward to continuing our savings trend.

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
Grand Total		-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.