Green and Healthy Schools

**John Stockton Elementary School Green Team, Duval County Public Schools, Jacksonville, Florida**

Bethany Patel is a teacher at John Stockton ES in Jacksonville, FL. Two years ago, she volunteered to create and manage the school's green team as a way to enhance the students' opportunity to learn about energy and water conservation, recycling, gardening and other sustainable behavior. Students were engaged through assemblies, science days, recycling collections, creating reusable snack bags and coffee cup sleeves as well as the Robotics Team making “Smart Glitter” out of Epsom Salt and sugar.

The first year she participated in the DCPS Green Champion of the Year competition, she won the Rookie of the Year award. The second year she participated, she won Green Champion of the Year.

**Green and Healthy Lifestyle through Green Education, NPS INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL GUWAHATI, INDIA**

Green and Healthy Lifestyle through Green Education engages students from grades 6-9 in various activities to learn eco-friendly concepts and become environmental leaders. The activities focus on organic farming and agricultural practices, waste management, controlling pollution, conservation practices and awareness programs.

**GreenFutures Sustainability Program, The School District of Philadelphia**

This is the School District of Philadelphia's (SDP) first sustainability program and it was published in 2016. The SDP is the eighth largest public school district in the nation, serving nearly 200,000 students in 300 buildings. GreenFutures has five focus areas: Education for Sustainability; Energy and Efficiencies; Consumption and Waste; School Greenscapes; and, Healthy Schools/Healthy Living. There are 65 specific actions described in the program including constructing green schoolyards with stormwater management infrastructure and outdoor learning spaces; implementing a student-led energy education program and ESCO program; measuring waste diversion rates at schools to support recycling; developing and administering a healthy hydration campaign; and, spearheading a highly developed professional development program for teachers around all aspects of sustainability.

**Making A Difference with Plants, Manchester-Essex High School Green Team**

Students Eliza Woodward and Catherine Staid developed a full business plan and method of growing plants to help support the Manchester-Essex Green Team. They settled on a way to grow plants by using Hydroponics and Aquaponic using direct planting of seeds in a substrate to determine if fertilizer or fish waste is a more effective way to produce seedlings. Their plan is to sell seedlings through their business (Catherine and Eliza's Plants), and to supply the school garden with a variety of seedlings for use in the cafeteria. Challenges came and went as these two students worked collaboratively on their successful business model.
**Mission Green Mumbai, Subhajit Mukherjee**

Mission Green Mumbai carried out the Initiative Each One Plant One. In the last year the founder, Subhajit, visited 180 schools in Mumbai and Inspired more than 38,000 students to adopt One Plant Each. Students were introduced to the project during a one hour lesson on the environment and tree plantations. Each student received a free tree sapling to plant and care for. Their vision is if all he students can adopt a Tree today then the entire world will be a Greener Place.

**Support Greeny and Happy, Healthy Forever, PSGR Krishnammal Nursery and Primary School**

The initiative focuses on five key areas: efficient use of resources, a healthy environment, ecological curriculum, nutritious food and sustainable practices towards community. Students were asked to take a pledge to save the environment, were engaged in tree plantings and growing food, as well as programs that focused on waste reduction (learning the 3 Rs) and understanding energy conservation.

**Green Living and Consumerism**

**Justin Sather, www.ForTheLoveOfFrogs.com**

Justin is an 8-year-old boy who took his love of frogs to the next level. In Kindergarten, Justin began on his journey to teach as many people as possible that 1/3 of the frogs around the world are going extinct and that they are indicator species. That led Justin to creating his For the Love of Frogs website and campaign to raise money to not only protect frogs, but also to help keep plastic pollution out of landfills and environments. Justin’s newest projects: Trash to Treasure had him collecting toothbrushes in to be recycled properly and bottle caps that were then turned into a Buddy Bench. Justin has educated over 3,000 people locally, statewide, and worldwide on ways to turn trash into treasures. Justin is also our youngest National Youth Council Officer.

**Congressional School’s Globally-Wise Reusable Bag & Single Use Plastics Reduction Campaign, Congressional School**

The 6th grade Social Studies Global Perspectives students at Congressional School learned about plastic pollution, poverty, and sustainability, and continue to take the lead in finding sustainable solutions for their school. Last year, the students dug deep and explored how to build a more Sustainable School. This year, they partnered with female micro-entrepreneurs in India to manufacture washable, eco-friendly, durable, and spacious bags. The students created a promotional video to spread the word throughout our community and are actively selling the bags and educating their audiences about single use plastic pollution at all school functions. As a result of this campaign, their school no longer uses plastic utensils or straws at lunch.
Food and Agriculture

*Braiding the Sacred Community Gardening, Saponi Stickball*

Braiding the Sacred is a growing network across America of indigenous corn keepers. Crystal Cavalier-Keck and her husband Jason have been working to meet with tribal nations to offer workshops and classes to preserve ancestral corn varieties and remind Native Communities of the need to return to their sacred responsibilities to care for them before their extinction. Traveling to different tribal nations, they have made a huge difference in the community, getting native people to work together, and reunify their community.

Youth Villages AmeriCorps Outdoor Kitchen, Youth Villages-Inner Harbour Campus

The Youth Villages-Inner Harbour Campus is one of Georgia’s largest residential treatment programs for youth with extreme emotional and behavioral challenges. Facilitated by Youth Villages AmeriCorps, Inner Harbour students utilize the community garden and Outdoor Kitchen and progress through a culinary arts curriculum focused on food preparation, nutrition, and healthy eating. During life skills culinary sessions, youth prepare diverse dishes incorporating harvest from the community garden and practice food preparation and handling skills. In 2017, Inner Harbour School students achieved 3rd place in the Georgia Department of Education Farm to School Student Chef Competition with their recipe, Chicken Massaman Curry with Turmeric Brown Rice.

STEM and the Future of Sustainability

*Fish in the Classroom, William D’Abate Elementary School, Providence Rhode Island*

Carmen, a 3rd grade teacher, and Amy, a fifth grade teacher, are bilingual teachers in a school that is approximately 94% ethnically diverse. They have been working with the Woonasquatucket River Watershed Council’s Fish in the Classroom program which brings brook trout directly into the classroom, and students are responsible for the care and upkeep of the tank. Carmen and Amy have been actively involved in FIC classes, celebrations, and stewardship projects. The students get to feel like they are making a difference, and contributing to the continual efforts towards a healthier river. They are impeccable environmental leaders that encourage their students to follow their example.

Broward County Sistrunk Bioswale Demonstration Project, Broward County Environmental Planning and Community Resilience Division

The Sistrunk Bioswale Demonstration Project involved the implementation of bioswales (natural water treatment) and environmental outreach initiatives to enhance water quality, engage citizens, and promote restoration of a 2-acre area located in an economically disadvantaged and distressed neighborhood.

Engaging approximately 125 volunteers, students and local teachers of three nearby Title 1 schools, located within walking distance the project incorporated the development of a sustainability curriculum to provide students with the opportunity to learn about the objectives of green infrastructure projects in general, and participate in the design, implementation and monitoring of the proposed bioswales, as well as to become active members of their community and have a positive impact on society at large.

In addition, as part of the educational program, pre- and post-site assessments and water quality monitoring included the targeted parameters:

- Trees / Plant Survival (height, conditions, canopy, dbh)
Outdoor Learning and Exploration

**Gardening project and introduction of NGSS in the Farmingdale community, Farmingdale High School**

Lorie Sheinwald is a science teacher and Advisor to their Environmental Club and newly formed National Green Schools Society. Looking to increase the work of their club over the summer she introduced a gardening program in which students were able to harvest food and use in their school's kitchen. To continue their efforts through the cold months, she created a hydroponic system inside her classroom. In keeping with the NGSS program she has also asked students to work on environmental projects that will positively impact their community.

**WISE Garden (Wildcats Initiative for a Sustainable Environment), Twin Lakes Academy Elementary School Green Team**

The Green Team at Twin Lakes Academy Elementary School (TLAE) has created a WISE Garden for outdoor learning and educational experiences. The WISE Garden (Wildcats Initiative for a Sustainable Environment) incorporates opportunities for the students to grow produce, compost waste, learn about weather, and eventually raise chickens all within the school environment. The students build the components using upwards of 70% upcycled and repurposed materials. Trying to stay true to their mission of reducing waste, reusing materials, and recycling what they can.

**Waste Management**

**Reseller Website on Facebook and Storage Hauling, Angel's Gate High School Los Angeles Unified School District**

Dominico Costa is an amazing teacher who has taught Science and coached sports in LAUSD for 36 years. Dominico uses his Facebook page to inspire people to buy and sell pre-used items such as clothing, kitchen appliances, collectibles and a lot more giving LA area residents an efficient and effective way of preventing things being thrown away and encouraging people to donate as well.

**Energy**

**How Low Can You Go Challenge, Broward County School District, Florida**
How Low Can You Go challenges schools not only in Broward County but now including Palm Beach and Miami Dade County Public Schools, to find innovative ways to reduce energy and water consumption at each campus. Schools participate in a three month challenge where they launch a campaign to reduce the schools KWH and water consumption. Schools are rewarded with incentives and a ceremony at halftime during a Miami Heat game for “Going Low”.

*Over 300 different schools registered for the How Low Can You Go Challenge since 2012
*Total Cost savings for the districts - $776,761 for energy
*Total KWH reduced -8,630,683 kWh (3 months per season)
*People Impacted -150,000+ (faculty, staff, students, facilities and communities)
*Reduced 13,455,244. Greenhouse gas emissions (CO2)
*19,475,520 gallons saved
**Lifetime Achievement Award** for a hero who has dedicated his or her life to Green Education

**Denise Scribner**

Denise Scribner joined the faculty at the high school level in the Goddard School District #265, Goddard, Kansas, in 2007 after 37 years of experience working with Girl Scouts of the USA.

During her 37 year tenure Denise’s innovative programs inspired girls to develop a lasting commitment to the environment by learning about endangered wildlife, developing creative recycling projects, and achieving various grade-level awards, which she helped to develop at the national level.

Upon retiring from Girl Scouting in 2007 Denise returned to formal teaching by joining the Goddard School District. During her tenure with Goddard school district Denise has received numerous awards for her outstanding vision, dedication, and commitment to helping her students become environmentally literate citizens who will make sustainable life choices now and in the future.

Some of the many awards Denise has received through the years are:

1) Excellence in Teaching About Agriculture Award (2017)

2) Presidential Award for Excellence in Math and Science Teaching (2015)

3) Entomologist Foundation President's Prize for Outstanding Education at the Secondary Level (2016) to recognize her work in using biological methods for pest management in the school gardens

During her past 12 years in Goddard school district she has impacted over 1,200 students through her ecology classes and has had students be recognized by the Presidential Environmental Youth Award, the Kansas Green Schools of Excellence Award, National Wildlife Federation's Eco School's Green Flag Award and others.

Her legacy of environmental awareness and dedication will live on through the lives of both the Girl Scout members and high school students she has taught after her planned retirement from Goddard school district in May 2020.
**Lifetime Achievement Award** for a hero who has dedicated his or her life to Green Education

**John Kakandelwa, Zambia**

John Kakandelwa is the founder of Powering Young Initiatives (Project CAFÉ) in Zambia, Africa.

Powering Young Initiatives focuses on instituting an ecosystem of change by offering more access to information, more opportunities, improved services and enriching lives through artistic and and cultural programming.

John is reaching his objectives through his creation of Project CAFE. It is surprising how a café, which is traditionally just a place for eating and drinking, can acquire the status of a communication channel.

Project Cafe will pave the path for a youth movement to address the effects of climate change. Specifically by,

- providing a completely immersive experience of learning where youth can absorb information about the environment and the effects of human behavior contributing to climate change,
- Making youth aware of how their individual behavior is affecting climate change and what they can do to rectify it,
- Facilitating dialogue and discussion among youth that encourages them to realize their roles and responsibilities in the fight against climate change,
- Facilitating recruitment of youth as change makers who commit to participate in interventions and events designed to address the effects of climate change,
- Encouraging youth to be part of the solution by helping them to individually adopt green lifestyles
- Creating a youth lobby that advocates for green policies, practices and lifestyles.

To address these, the Cafe will offer workshops, speakers, classes, fundraising events, educated waitstaff, incorporate sustainable building design, energy-saving appliances, and so much more.
**Lifetime Achievement Award** for a hero who has dedicated his or her life to Green Education

**Korry VanWagoner - Duval County Public Schools Green Champions Teacher Liaison**

Green Champions are teachers who volunteer to do extra activities with their students to incorporate green concepts at their school. Korry Van Wagoner, a Twin Lakes Elementary School teacher, Green Champion of the Year and new Green Champion Teacher Liaison, is working to help new Green Champions get started or advance current Green Champions with their current program. In a short year Korry, has brought in four new partnerships: UgMO through Project Green Schools, National Energy Foundation, Local Eagle Scouts and the Forestry Department with Timucaun Ecological Preserve to enhance and bring the latest ideas to DCPS Green Champions Program.

Korry’s involvement in her schools’ Green Team from 2012 - 2017 allowed her to build on previous work and expand by adding a Butterfly Garden, raised vegetable/fruit beds, expanding focus from Earth Day to Earth Week with enhanced activities and greatly increased faculty participation which served to further imbed the program within the school’s culture. The Great Water Odyssey Challenge was a 30-day take-home activity that brought much focus to water conservation as well as The Water Watchers program from Tree Hill Nature Center, both in school and at home. Planning ahead, Korry is already thinking ahead about next year and will tackle air quality with a Stop the Idle Campaign in the carpool and busses lane and a Walking School Bus for neighborhood students.

Her accolades include, but not limited to:

- United States Green Building Council Green Hero Runner-Up Award 2018
- Keep Jacksonville Beautiful – Green Educator Winner 2018
- Project Green Schools – 2018 Green Difference Award Winner – Outstanding Green Community Hero and an Honorable Mention.
- Green Champion of the Year 2016-2017:
- Jacksonville Environmental Protection Board – 2017 Environmental Champion Award