



# THE GREEN TEAM Newsletter

## Summer 2008

Membership in THE GREEN TEAM continued to grow in 2007-2008! This year, over 825 teachers from various grade levels at 409 Massachusetts schools signed up nearly 141,000 students for THE GREEN TEAM, sponsored by the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection. Through a wide variety of activities, these students and teachers were empowered to help the environment and slow climate change through waste reduction, reuse, recycling, composting and energy conservation. Activities conducted by GREEN TEAM members made a real difference for their schools, families and communities. Thanks to all students, teachers, and school staff who participated for the first time, as well as to those who are long-time GREEN TEAM members.

Below are some of the comments and updates we received from teachers about their experiences with THE GREEN TEAM:

*"We would not have been able to get started without your equipment. The students from Oliver Ames High School say thank you!"*

**Debbie Marguerite**  
Oliver Ames High School, Easton

*"We hope to do even bigger and better things next year! Keep the information and resources coming!"*

**Carrie-Anne Sherwood**  
Codman Academy Charter Public School, Dorchester

*"The children are becoming more vigilant about being "green." They question adults in the building when*



*John Page Elementary School, West Newbury*

*they are not recycling. A whole new attitude is emerging amongst the staff and parents."*

**Paula Del Prete**  
Barbieri Elementary School, Framingham

*"It has been wonderful to have the backing and support of the Green Team organization. Your website and library have been vast resources for us, and your posters and stickers have provided concrete motivation when the project seemed to be taking too long. Your organization helped us feel like we were firmly grounded from day one."*

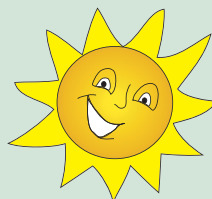
**Laura Chiaravalloti**  
Remington Middle School, Franklin

*"The elementary schools in our town have done a wonderful job educating students about the need to be green. We look forward to being involved with the Green Team next year."*

**Betsy Walker**  
Hingham Middle School



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## Summer 2008 (cont.)

*"Thanks for the resources and opportunity!"*

**Michele Connor**  
Leicester Memorial School

*"I have encouraged other teachers to join the Green Team. Next year I am hoping with more students and grade levels participating we can work on some bigger projects."*

**Susan Simmons**  
Helen R. Donaghue School, Merrimac

*"We look forward to our continued involvement with The Green Team! We have many exciting plans for the rest of this year and into next year. Thank you for this opportunity."*

**Nancy Grant**  
L.G. Nourse School, Norton

*"We love the Green Team!"*

**Jennifer Comiskey**  
Warwick Community School

*"Great program!! The children love it!!"*

**Amanda Nehmer**  
St. Thomas School, West Springfield

## Update from Barbieri Elementary School, Framingham

Barbieri Elementary is in full GREEN mode. The week of April 14th, Alex Gray, K teacher, coordinated a "GREEN UP WEEK". She organized the staff by grade levels into a competition as to who could perform the most "GREEN" tasks during the week. A free lunch was provided to the grade level that modeled the most "GREEN" behaviors during the week. For instance, if you rode your bike to school or walked to school your grade level would get a point. A large graph was kept in the teachers' room and updated daily.

All of the K students also took part in a "clean up day" out on the playground. Also, one of our student's Cub Scout troop came to school on a Saturday and picked up 18 bags of trash from the school grounds.

Barbieri School has also become a "NO-IDLING ZONE". This means that all vehicles need to shut off their engines while parked or pulled into the property. Watch for the new signs going up around the campus.

The 5th grade boys' group worked hard this past month with our recycling efforts. They are up to 8 tons of paper recycled this year. Their goal is 10 tons!



Barbieri Elementary School's tree planting ceremony

The boys held a tree planting ceremony in honor of Earth Day. A great big "Thank You" goes out to Jack Schneiderman, one of our 5th grade students who worked hard in getting a tree donated for the ceremony. Jack worked tirelessly calling around to local nurseries. Finally, Weston Nurseries, of Hopkinton came to the rescue with a beautiful Goldfinch Magnolia Tree. We are very thankful for this generous donation. The boys have cleaned up the playground as well as planted flowers to brighten up the entryway to the school.

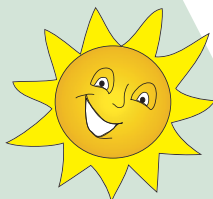
Finally, our music department put on a Spring show filled with songs in honor of Earth Day.

I am proud of all of the staff, students and families' efforts in becoming greener and friendlier to our environment.

*Submitted by Paula J. Del Prete, Vice Principal, Barbieri Elementary School, Framingham*



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## GreenTeam Awards

### Program Highlights

Congratulations to the 98 GREEN TEAM classes who completed GREEN TEAM activities and submitted their Teacher Response forms. These 98 classes, representing over 7,630 students, took THE GREEN TEAM Pledge to recycle, conserve energy and prevent pollution at home, in school and in their communities. By taking the pledge, these students reached the first GREEN TEAM level, "Planet Protectors."

As their environmental efforts increased, students progressed through three GREEN TEAM levels. Six classes that completed a Level 2 activity, such as the "Climate Change Scorecard" lesson, became "Conservation Coyotes." Ninety-one classes went on to achieve the highest GREEN TEAM level, "Environmental Eagles, by completing activities at the first two levels plus at least one from the third, such as starting recycling or composting programs at their school.



Plymouth South Middle School

All 98 participating classes whose teachers submitted Teacher Response forms received a Certificate of Recognition for the level they achieved. In addition, "Planet Protectors" received Trash Terminator bookmarks or pencils

made from recycled materials. Classes that reached "Conservation Coyote" or "Environmental Eagle" status were also entered into a grand prize drawing. Grand prizes were awarded to 88 classes at 76 different schools. Seventeen of the grand prize awards were school-wide performances by environmental "edu-tainers" Peter O'Malley, Jack Golden and the musical group "Earthtunes." The other grand prizes included mini-recycling bin planters, coloring books, wristbands and information wheels for each student. For a complete list and description of Green Team prize winners and their projects, ([Click here](#)).

### THE GREEN TEAM Tackles Climate Change

THE GREEN TEAM added new activities about climate change to the Green Team kit in 2007-2008. The Climate Change Activities provide background information about global warming and a Climate Change Scorecard to help students discover and track actions they can take to reduce greenhouse gas pollution at home and at school.

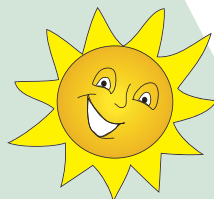
THE GREEN TEAM also added some new climate change materials to the Lending Library. Teachers can now borrow the documentary "An Inconvenient Truth" and a Climate Change Backpack that is stuffed full of activities to help educate students about reducing greenhouse gas pollution. A new set of books, *How We Know What We Know About our Changing Climate: Scientists and Kids Explore Global Warming*, by Lynn Cherry and Gary Braasch, along with an accompanying teacher's guide, are also available for borrowing. We hope you will use some of these great new resources with your students.



Greater Lowell Technical High School, Tyngsboro, Beach Clean Up



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## GREEN TEAM Activities Expand Exponentially

Many classes ingeniously expanded on THE GREEN TEAM activities this year. Mr. Phillips' HOWL (Helping Others While Learning) students organized school wide recycling programs at Plymouth Community Intermediate School and Plymouth South Middle School, and helped the two Plymouth high schools to start recycling, as well. More than 4,500 students are participating! To help educate the school communities, the HOWL students created and videotaped their own unique recycling public service announcements, which can be viewed at their web site, <http://www.wphillips.com/Recycle.htm>.

This school year saw many schools expand their recycling programs to include bottles and cans. Students appalled by the amount of juice, water and sports drink bottles going into the school's trash bins did something about it! Many equipment applications this year were for schools that needed more bins for collecting bottles and cans in the cafeteria, hallways, on the athletic fields and in gymnasiums. And some GREEN TEAMS have gone to the next level of promoting reusable bottles to their peers, reducing the amount of plastics used altogether.

GREEN TEAM members conducted many new climate change projects this year. In Franklin, Remington Middle School's sixth grade Titans Team taught their community the importance of switching to compact fluorescent lights (CFLs) by conducting research, creating an informative brochure, videotaping interviews with town leaders, creating signs and posters and producing several PSAs and commercials that were run on local cable, Dean College radio, and on the school website. In addition to educating their town residents, the Titans impressively convinced three local stores to become recycling drop off points



Helen R. Donaghue School, Merrimac, "Green Holiday Display"

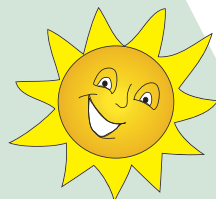
for CFLs. To view some of their very creative and informative products, visit <http://www.franklin.ma.us/auto/schools/remington/6thgrade/turner/CSLProject/default.htm>. The Titans Team also kept a blog about their projects - as far as we know, they are the first GREEN TEAM climate change bloggers! Check it out at <http://www.titanscsl.learnerblogs.org/>

Ms. Chorhummel's students at Boston Latin Academy sold energy efficient light bulbs to the staff and their community. Many GREEN TEAM classes helped save acres of tropical rain forest by reading books in Scholastic's "Read Books to Save the Rainforest" program. Several schools held Earth Hour events and spread the word throughout their community. Earth Hour is an annual international event held in March during which households and businesses turn off all non-essential lights and appliances for one hour to raise awareness about climate change. Several GREEN TEAMS designed solar electric powered toys and cars. Energy Fairs and school energy audits were popular, as students shared their knowledge with their peers and school officials and pointed out ways to make their schools more energy efficient.

There was a lot more interest in starting or expanding school composting programs this year, with 41 compost bins provided to GREEN TEAM schools, twice as many as last year. Even worm composting has grown in popularity, with 28 worm bins distributed, one-third more than the number requested last year. Altogether, 37 GREEN TEAM schools received composting equipment this year!



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## Activities (cont.)

### Schools that received composting equipment from THE GREEN TEAM in 2007-2008:

- Agawam High School - 1 compost bin and 1 worm bin
- John R. Briggs Elementary School, Ashburnham - 2 compost bins and 1 worm bin
- Bernardston Elementary School - 1 compost bin and 1 worm bin
- James McKeown Elementary School, Beverly - 1 compost bin and 1 worm bin
- Francis W. Parker Charter Essential School, Devens - 1 compost bin and 1 worm bin
- Joseph Lee School, Dorchester - 1 compost bin
- Elizabeth I. Hastings Middle School, Fairhaven - 1 compost bin and 1 worm bin
- Remington Middle School, Franklin - 2 compost bins and 1 worm bin
- Monument Mountain Regional High School, Great Barrington - 1 compost bin and 1 worm bin
- Newton Elementary School, Greenfield - 2 compost bins and 1 worm bin
- Hanover High School - 1 compost bin
- Plymouth River Elementary School, Hingham - 5 compost bins and 1 worm bin
- South Shore Educational Collaborative, Hingham - 1 compost bin
- Elmwood School, Hopkinton - 1 worm certificate
- Silver Lake Regional Middle School, Kingston - 1 compost bin and 1 worm bin
- Lanesborough Elementary School - 2 compost bins and 1 worm bin
- Leicester Memorial School - 1 compost bin and 1 worm bin
- Willie Ross School for the Deaf, Longmeadow - 1 worm bin
- Wolf Swamp Road School, Longmeadow - 1 compost bin and 1 worm bin
- Boston Nature Center, Mattapan - 1 worm bin
- Roosevelt Elementary School, Melrose - 1 worm bin

- Nantucket Homeschoolers - 1 worm certificate
- Bresnahan Elementary School, Newburyport - 1 worm bin
- Linden Hill School, Northfield - 1 compost bin
- Ralph C. Mahar Regional School, Orange - 1 compost bin and 1 worm bin
- Dennis C. Haley Elementary School, Roslindale - 1 worm bin
- Gates Intermediate School, Scituate - 1 compost bin and 1 worm bin
- Jenkins School, Scituate - 6 compost bins
- Somerset High School - 1 compost bin and 1 worm bin
- Michael E. Smith Middle School, South Hadley - 2 compost bins
- South Hadley High School - 1 worm bin
- Greater Boston Academy-Edgewood Elementary, Stoneham - 1 compost bin
- Sunderland Elementary School - 2 compost bins and 1 worm bin
- Centerpoint School, Tewksbury - 1 compost bin
- Warwick Community School - 1 worm bin
- Stony Hill Elementary School, Wilbraham - 1 compost bin and 1 worm bin
- G. Stanley Hall School, Worcester - 1 worm bin

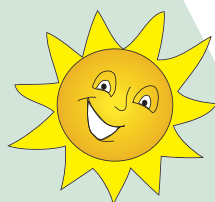


John R. Briggs Elementary School, Ashburnham, Worm Farm

Interest in protecting our environment is stronger than ever, and Massachusetts' GREEN TEAM students, teachers and schools are leading the way!



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## THE GREEN TEAM Makes the News!

### Idling Reduction Materials Help Clear the Air!

THE GREEN TEAM's Idling Reduction initiative helped schools reduce air pollution from vehicle exhaust by offering GREEN TEAM teachers idling reduction curriculum materials and signs to use at their schools to help spread awareness.



#### IDLE-FREE ZONE

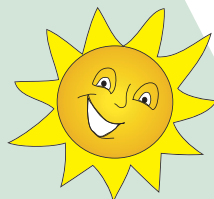
Seven schools in Massachusetts requested and received idling reduction materials from THE GREEN TEAM to initiate an Idle-Free program at their school. 21 Idle-Free Zone signs, 11 Five Minute Idling Limit signs, 2,700 idling reduction pledge cards, 950 static sticker windshield decals, 950 bumper stickers, 250 school bus dashboard stickers and 2,000 palm cards were distributed to the following GREEN TEAM schools.

#### Schools that received idling reduction materials from THE GREEN TEAM in 2007-2008:

- Barbieri Elementary School, Framingham
- Monument Mt. Regl. High School, Great Barrington
- Plymouth River Elementary School, Hingham
- Barnstable Middle School, Hyannis
- Wellesley High School
- Westborough High School
- Weston High School



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Thanks to your outstanding outreach efforts, several articles featuring GREEN TEAM members' accomplishments were published in local papers. The [December 5, 2007](#) and April 20, 2008 issues of *The Springfield Republican* mentioned the success of the "Go Green" campaign at **Agawam Middle School**. On April 3, 2008 the *Worcester Telegram & Gazette* highlighted the public awareness campaign launched by **Franklin's Remington Middle School**. The group's efforts were again published in the [April 3](#) and [April 21, 2008](#) issues of the *Milford Daily News*. Green Team teacher **Diane Bugler** and the fifth graders at **Captain Samuel Brown School** in Peabody were honored in the [June 10, 2008](#) issue of *The Salem News* for their year-long recycling efforts. The [June 6, 2008](#) issue of *The Newburyport Current* featured an article about the **Bresnahan School Green Team**. The students at **Dean Luce Elementary School** in Canton were recognized in the [June 22, 2008](#) issue of *The Boston Globe*.

**Stephanie Scherr's** Environmental Science students at **Narragansett Regional High School** were responsible for recycling at the high school this year, and are also in first place for student publications in their local paper, *The Gardner News*, for their prolific writing on current environmental issues. Participating students included **Amber Brown, Jessica Butts, Samantha Charter, Austin Cosentino, Nicola Duguay, John Giacobone, Olivia Kay, Jessica Keegan, Jacklyn Kerrins, Krystal LeBlanc, Nathan Lewis, Daniel Mallard, Danielle Malo, Nicholas McGovern, Liam Oliver, Kyle Quinlan, Carlos Rios, Adam Shaw, Lacey Shaw, Drake Williams, Rebecca Williams, Samantha Yelle** and **Brittany Zarozinski**.



Holten Richmond Middle School, Danvers





## Recycling and Composting Equipment Distribution Doubles!

The number of GREEN TEAM schools that requested recycling and composting equipment doubled compared to last year. One hundred and thirteen schools in Massachusetts received equipment from THE GREEN TEAM to initiate or enhance their school recycling programs. 2,172 classroom bins, 627 desk side boxes, 235 wheeled carts, 41 compost bins, and 28 worm bins were distributed to GREEN TEAM schools.

### Schools that received recycling and/or composting equipment from THE GREEN TEAM in 2007-2008:

- Berkshire Arts and Technology Charter Pub. School, Adams
- Agawam High School
- John R. Briggs Elementary School, Ashburnham
- Berkley Middle School
- Bernardston Elementary School
- James McKeown Elementary School, Beverly
- Blandford Elementary School
- Health Careers Academy, Boston
- Bourne High School
- Bridgewater - Raynham Regional High School, Bridgewater
- The Mary Lyon School, Brighton
- Ansin Religious School, Brookline
- Triton Regional Middle School, Byfield
- Cohasset Middle High School
- Holten-Richmond Middle School, Danvers
- Francis W. Parker Charter Essential School, Devens
- Boston Latin Academy, Dorchester
- Joseph Lee School, Dorchester
- Brookside Elementary School, Dracut
- Dudley Middle School

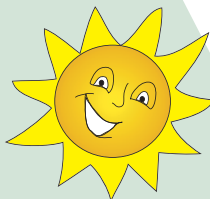


High Plain Elementary School, Andover

- Shepherd Hill Regional High School, Dudley
- Chandler School, Duxbury
- Easthampton High School
- Oliver Ames High School, Easton
- Elizabeth I. Hastings Middle School, Fairhaven
- Forestdale School, Sandwich
- Christa McAuliffe Regional Charter Public School, Framingham
- Benjamin Franklin Classical Charter Public School, Franklin
- Remington Middle School, Franklin
- Penn Brook School, Georgetown
- Monument Mountain Regional High School, Great Barrington
- Newton Elementary School, Greenfield
- Groton Dunstable Middle School, Groton
- Hanover High School
- Cape Cod Regional Technical High School, Harwich
- Hilltown Cooperative Charter School, Haydenville
- Plymouth River Elementary School, Hingham
- South Shore Educational Collaborative, Hingham
- Elmwood School, Hopkinton
- Gateway Regional High School, Huntington
- Barnstable Middle School, Hyannis
- Young Achievers Pilot School, Jamaica Plain
- Kingston Elementary School
- Silver Lake Regional Middle School, Kingston
- Lanesborough Elementary School
- Leicester High School
- Leicester Memorial School



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**Schools that received recycling and/or composting equipment from THE GREEN TEAM in 2007-2008: (cont.)**

- Montessori School of the Berkshires, Lenox
- Shaker Lane Elementary School, Littleton
- Willie Ross School for the Deaf, Longmeadow
- Wolf Swamp Road School, Longmeadow
- Abraham Lincoln Elementary School, Lowell
- B. F. Butler Middle School, Lowell
- Dr. Gertrude M. Bailey Elementary School, Lowell
- E. N. Rogers School, Lowell
- Lowell High School
- Lunenburg High School
- Malden High School
- Boston Nature Center, Mattapan/Boston Schools
- Old Rochester Regl. Jr. High School, Mattapoissett
- Horace Mann School, Melrose
- Roosevelt Elementary School, Melrose
- The Winthrop School, Melrose
- Henry P. Clough Elementary School, Mendon
- Nantucket Homeschoolers
- St. Joseph School, Needham
- Cabot Elementary School, Newton
- Franklin School, Newton
- North Brookfield Junior/Senior High School
- Linden Hill School, Northfield
- Pioneer Valley Regional School, Northfield
- L. G. Nourse Elementary School, Norton
- Ralph C. Mahar Regional School, Orange
- Old Mill Pond School, Palmer
- Morningside Community School, Pittsfield
- Taconic High School, Pittsfield
- Theodore Herberg Middle School, Pittsfield
- Dennis C. Haley Elementary School, Roslindale
- Gates Intermediate School, Scituate
- Jenkins School, Scituate
- East Elementary School, Sharon
- Shirley Middle School
- Somerset High School
- Excel High School, South Boston

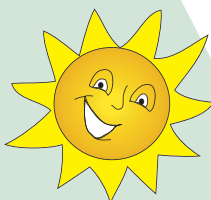
- Nathaniel H. Wixon Middle School, South Dennis
- Michael E. Smith Middle School, South Hadley
- South Hadley High School
- Dennis-Yarmouth Regional High School, South Yarmouth
- Gerena Community School, Springfield
- Greater Boston Academy-Edgewood Elementary, Stoneham
- Sunderland Elementary School
- Bristol Plymouth Technical High School, Taunton
- Taunton Catholic Middle School
- Taunton High School
- Centerpoint School, Tewksbury
- Truro Central School
- Franklin County Technical School, Turners Falls
- Greater Lowell Technical High School, Tyngsboro
- Walpole High School
- Quaboag Regional Middle/High School, Warren
- Warwick Community School
- Wellesley High School
- Buker Elementary School, Wenham
- Pentucket Regional High School, West Newbury
- W. H. Ohrenberger School, West Roxbury
- Westborough High School
- Weston Middle School
- Woodland School, Weston
- Country School, Weston
- Minnechaug Regl. High School, Wilbraham
- Stony Hill Elementary School, Wilbraham
- Mt. Greylock Regl. High School, Williamstown
- G. Stanley Hall School, Worcester



Old Rochester Regional Junior High School, Mattapoissett



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