

## March 2013 Newsletter

Hi Green Team Teachers,

Spring is almost here! Consider recycling, composting and other environmental activities as we get closer to April and Earth Day! There are many wonderful projects under way at schools all over Massachusetts.

Please submit your <u>Teacher Response Form</u> as soon as possible (due by Mar. 31) in order to receive your Certificate of Recognition and prizes for your classes by May. Even if you haven't yet completed the many activities held during warmer weather, submit your form and let us know what's in the works!

There have been a bevy of Massachusetts schools in the news for the strides they've made in waste reduction. Congratulations to Captain Samuel Brown Elementary School in Peabody as the 2012 Recycle-Bowl winner from Massachusetts, and a hearty "Well done!" to the other participating Massachusetts schools: Abby Kelley Foster Charter Public High School, Worcester; Boston Latin School and Sharon High School. Kennedy Middle School in Natick has been selected as one of the top 15 schools nationally in the Samsung Solve for Tomorrow contest for their worm composting project and video – vote for them today to help them win the grand prize!

If you're interested in recycling or composting bins for your school, materials are available through forms on <u>The Green Team website</u>. We have equipment in stock, and we are responding to requests as they come in. There is a composting lesson plan on the <u>website</u> and other materials to help you get started.

## School Programs, Resources, and Professional Development

## March

Tuesday, March 5<sup>th</sup>, 7 p.m. – 8:30 p.m. – The film "Bag it" will be shown at the Manchester Essex Middle High School Auditorium, presented by the Manchester Essex Regional School District Green Team. This film is very informative about the effects of plastics in the environment, and the particular problem of plastic bags. Lori Ehrlich, the State Representative from Marblehead will introduce the film.

Wednesday, March 6<sup>th</sup>, 9 a.m. – 4 p.m. - Massachusetts Environmental Education Society (MEES) 2012 Conference – "Refresh: New Tools and Techniques for Today's Educators" –at the College of the Holy Cross in Worcester. Workshops will share ideas for revitalizing education practice and the systems used to promote environmental education. Workshops will provide tools that can be used to promote positive environmental education with a wide variety of audience and to keep the message of environmental conservation fresh, timely, and inspiring across the state. Visit their website to register or to download the Conference Brochure to review workshops and print out the registration form to mail.

Saturday, March 9<sup>th</sup>, 9 a.m. - 3:30 p.m. The 12<sup>th</sup> Annual Growing Minds through Massachusetts Agriculture Conference for Educators will be held at the Paul R. Baird Middle School in Ludlow, MA. Sponsored by Mass Agriculture in the Classroom, this year's conference will feature a choice of four concurrent workshops during each session throughout the day. Each workshop will be taught by a school teacher, farm educator or a teacher working together with a farmer. Workshops will offer specific background and activities for either elementary, middle or high school level. Topics include: composting, school gardening, soils, nutrition, animals, fibers, connecting the farm to school, specific lessons ideas and more. Don't miss this day of discussion, interaction and opportunities for exploring new ideas for your Massachusetts classroom. The fee is \$50 and includes all workshops, lunch, materials and 10 pdp's with a related classroom activity. You can read more information and download the registration form at their website.

Tuesday, March 19<sup>th</sup>, 8 a.m. – 4 p.m. - The MassRecycle Conference and Tradeshow will be held at the Holiday Inn Conference Center in Boxborough. Teachers are welcome and there will be a special School Recycling and Composting track. The Green Team will be exhibiting so come by and say hello! Visit the MassRecycle website for more information and to register.

Thursday, March 22, 2013 – Deadline to submit nominations for the Excellence in Energy and Environmental Education Awards. Winners are acknowledged at a ceremony at the State House in May. "With this program, we recognize teachers and students who inspire their communities by exploring our most challenging environmental and energy issues," said Environmental Affairs Secretary Rick Sullivan. "The nomination is web-based and can be found at the Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs website. Consider nominating your Green Team!

**Sunday, March 31, 2013** – Deadline to submit your <u>Teacher Response Form</u> to THE GREEN TEAM to receive a Certificate of Recognition for your class and student prizes in May. We look forward to hearing of the great projects and activities your students have accomplished this year!

Monday, April 22, 2013 is Earth Day. Visit <u>The Earth Day Network</u> for resources, ideas and to post your event or find Earth Day events near you.

If you have any questions, please contact me via email or telephone at (413) 586-7350, ext. 225.

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