

#### **December 2014 Newsletter**

Season's Greetings Green Team Teachers!

Warmest thoughts and best wishes for a wonderful Holiday Season and a very Happy New Year!

# Thank you! We received your registration for this year.

We greatly appreciate all that you do to teach your students about how best to understand and respect the environment.

Did you know that once registered, you can apply for <u>recycling and composting</u> <u>equipment</u> for your class and <u>idling reduction materials!</u> Once these forms are filled out scan and email them to <u>recycle@thegreenteam.org</u> or fax them to (413) 586-7351.

Here is what teachers are saying about the Green Team recycling and composting equipment program:

*"THE GREEN TEAM provided the basic equipment needed, for free, so that an important obstacle to recycling is removed"* 

-Janet at Weston High School

"Boston Latin Academy improved its ability and capacity for single stream recycling thanks to equipment provided by THE GREEN TEAM."

-Katherine at Boston Latin Academy

"The participating GREEN TEAM students are English language learners from many countries. We are doing a Bottle Biology lab for composting with red wriggler worms. The two composting bins we received from THE GREEN TEAM are already full! Students are bringing compostables from home and from the cafeteria."

-Peter at Randolph Community High School

## Featured Topics:

Americans increase their waste output by 25% from Thanksgiving to New Year's. This equates to an extra 1 million tons of trash per week, every holiday season. You can help!

- Search MassDEP's list of <u>Municipal Recycling Programs</u> to see where you can recycle Christmas trees
- Read MassDEP's Holiday Tip Sheet: <u>Reduce, Reuse, Recycle, Be Green</u>
- Check out the tips and links on Region1 EPA New England's: <u>Steps for an eco-cool</u>
  <u>holiday event</u>

Reporter Luke Runyon, writing for <u>Harvest Public Media</u> published <u>Choices Can Slice</u> <u>School Food Waste</u> an article that describes strategies a Colorado-based school implemented to provide healthier food for its students as well as simultaneously decrease the amount of post-consumer food waste they generate!

Start 2015 with Green New Year's Resolutions, here are some suggestions to inspire your students, and ask them to come up with ones of their own!

- 1. Drink water from a reusable container and skip the soda and/or juice.
- 2. Use a bike to travel short distances, (always with a helmet).
- 3. Take a break from electronics and turn them off! Find a sport (like basketball or soccer) or an activity you enjoy (like playing tag, jumping rope, dancing or riding my bike) and do it at least three times a week.
- 4. Volunteer in your community for a local environmental initiative.

Here at the Green Team we want to hear from you. Submit your <u>Eco-Star story</u> and photos so we can share them on the next newsletter and website!

## School Programs, Resources, Competitions and Professional Development

## **December**

**Dec. 5, 2014,** 9am - 11am Charles River School, Old Meadow Road, Dover, MA **will be hosting Explore your World!** iGlobe and MIT have been awarded a grant from the National Science Foundation to educate students and the public on climate change. Join the Charles River School to learn more about the project and how you can participate. Check under Upcoming Events on the school's <u>website</u>.

**Dec. 5, 2014**-<u>DEADLINE for Call for Entries for the Cambridge Science Festival</u>. The <u>9<sup>th</sup></u> <u>annual Science Carnival and Robot Zoo</u> is taking place April 18, 2015. Now is your chance to participate in the celebration of science, technology, engineering, art and math (STEAM)! Submit proposals for lectures, performances, activities, exhibits, tours, debates, workshops, or other fabulous ideas!

**Dec. 10, 2014-Jan 20, 2015** <u>U.S. Composting Council Research & Education Foundation</u> **Sustainable Student Scholarship Award.** High School seniors entering college or university program in Fall, 2014 can apply for a \$1,000 scholarship. <u>Submission</u> must be sent electronically via email and include a short application, essay, and two recommendation letters from a guidance counselor/teacher/supervisor involved in student's environmental and academic activities by January 20<sup>th</sup>, 2015 deadline.

**Dec. 11, 2014** – Application deadline for <u>Green Ribbon School Award</u>. Massachusetts is once again participating in the U.S. Department of Education's <u>Green Ribbon Schools</u> recognition program during the 2014-2015 school year! US Department of Education Green Ribbon Schools (ED-GRS) recognizes schools taking a comprehensive approach to greening their school involving environmental learning with improving environmental and health impacts.

We love our jobs because of amazing Green Team supporters like you. Happy Holidays and stay Green!

Sean Pontani & Diana Balmonte Green Team, Program Administrators

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