



SPS Conservation Champions 2012-2013

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We asked schools to nominate a person or group that was working to foster a culture of conservation at their school. We received many wonderful nominations from schools throughout the District and are excited to share those nominations with you here. We hope you will find them as inspiring as we did!

Conservation Champion Awards are part of a suite of three Utility Conservation Programs: Shared Savings Awards, Green Team Support, and Conservation Champion Awards. Together, these programs aim to encourage and support the work that schools are doing to conserve energy, water, and waste.

More information about the SPS Resource Conservation department:
<https://www.seattleschools.org/departments/resource-conservation/>

2012/13 Conservation Champions at Seattle Public Schools



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More information can be found online at <http://bit.ly/sps-conservation>

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Compiled by Nicole Laky & Rina Fa'amoe, SPS Resource Conservation Specialists



APP@Lincoln, Farid Hart

"Farid has been an indispensable part of the energy conservation measures that we have taken this year. At first, I suspect he thought I was a crazy lady, walking through empty parts of the building in search of energy vampires. However, once he understood what I was up to, he not only aided the project, he suggested ways that we could conserve energy that weren't on my radar. Farid has taken an active role in helping our school conserve energy, from working on getting heating issues solved promptly, to decommissioning and moving refrigerators, to examining classrooms for common appliances that we could do better at powering off. Additionally, Farid has been kind and professional to work with, which has made the job all the easier."

Nominated by Kimberly Christensen

APP@Lincoln, Jo Simonian

"This is Jo's first year as our kitchen manager, and I was a little nervous that a new kitchen manager wouldn't be supportive of our lunchroom compost and recycling program. Boy, was I wrong! Jo is not just supportive, she has embraced the program and helped us make it successful this year. Her positive attitude has been so helpful in attracting and retaining adult volunteers. The students know that they can ask her for help and that she will never make them feel like a nuisance. Instead, she will figure out how to help them! More than once, she has loaned gloves to students when we have run out. I am sure there are a million small things that she has done to make the program run more smoothly when I am not there. I never have to fret if an adult volunteer misses their shift. I just email Jo, and she cheerfully agrees to keep an eye on the students for that day. Jo is a champion in my eyes for her work in making our lunchroom program a normal part of the school day (which to me means that it is likely to continue as infinitum!)."

Nominated by Kimberly Christensen

APP@Lincoln, Kimberly Christensen

"Kimberly Christensen has been a tireless conservation champion at APP@Lincoln. She has performed an extensive energy audit and has worked with the district to reduce the school's energy usage. So far, the heat has been turned down in the unused portion of the building, fridges have been decommissioned, and the vending machine has been removed. She has been working with teachers to turn off computers and projectors in a timely fashion. Additionally, Kimberly has gotten 180 students involved in Green Team management of the lunchroom

recycling and compost. She has expanded the community outreach of the Green Team as well: recycling and composting at school events, making a recycling and composting presentation at the Science Fair, presenting at assemblies, recycling and composting at the Wallingford Kiddie Parade. The Green Team, spearheaded by Kimberly, also got the PTA to purchase only compostable plates, cups, napkins, and silverware for school events. Additionally, the Green Team performed a waste audit to assess its effectiveness and is now working with teachers to increase recycling and composting in the classrooms."

Nominated by Brooke Doyle



"Kimberly spends countless hours organizing and maintaining a Green Team of 150 students at Lincoln APP. Through her hard work and effort the Green Team there has been able to start compost and recycling throughout the school and recently completed their Washington Green Schools certification in Energy. Through instigating behavioral changes and identifying easy to fix problems within the school they were able to make a huge impact. For example, they were able to have the heat turned off in the entire unused north wing of their school. Through these changes they were able to reduce their energy usage by 12%. Kimberly has done an incredible job leading this charge and coordinating such a large Green Team that we really believe that she deserves recognition as a Conservation Champion."

Nominated by Washington Green Schools



Arbor Heights, Angie Nall

"Ms. Nall is the leader of The Green Team at Arbor Heights. Her main program consists of students assisting with Lunchroom Composting. She coordinates, educates and facilitates Lunchroom Monitors which are students from grades 2-5 who help other students sort food waste, trash and recyclables into proper containers. Groups of 3 or more Monitors help in the cafeteria in one week shifts, allowing different students to participate. Ms. Nall has promoted and educated our school community regarding this program for the last 2 years and is very dedicated."

Nominated by Teresa Squillace

Bryant Elementary School, Green Team, led by Ms. Salisbury and Ms. Hansen

"Dear Ms. Laky,

I think that Bryant Green Team is a Conservation Champion because we help people recycle. In the morning, when there is breakfast at our school, there are three student Green Team volunteers helping sort food waste and recycling from landfill garbage. Every day at lunch, there are three students for each grade group, who come from their class to help students sort their food into the right bins. Also, every Green Team member has a day when they do recycling around the school. Each member has an assigned floor and there are many recycling bins on each floor to collect from and put in the main recycling, which is near the custodian's office.

Also, we try to make everyone at Bryant aware of recycling and separating food waste. For instance, one time, we took many trash bags out on the playground, we dumped them out on plastic sheets, and sorted through all of them again, just to make sure that everything is in the right place.

Our teacher advisors have been really great. Ms. Salisbury took us to a show at the Burke Museum where we learned about the history of plastic. Some day in the spring, we hope to go to a park with some trash bags and clean up the trash that is there, and sort it, and recycle it.

This is why I think that the Bryant Elementary Green Team is a Conservation Champion.

Sincerely,

Lucy Campau, 4th grade, Bryant Elementary Green Team"

Catherine Blaine K-8, Karen Kubota

"Karen has created the composing program at our school, and works hard to keep it going."

Nominated by Stephanie Peterson



Cleveland High School, Madison Malvern & Parisse Chan-Jenkins

"Madison Malvern and Parisse Chan-Jenkins have been valuable members of the Sustainability Council at Cleveland High School. They have attended YMCA Earth Service Corps (YESC) Environmental Symposiums to enhance their leadership skills, led tables at the YESC Environmental Summit in December 2012 in which they led their peers in discussions about composting and recycling at their schools, and have been primary leaders in the development of the composting program at their school. Parisse and Madison dedicated 3 days in the fall to attend NatureBridge in the Olympic Peninsula as a team of 7 dedicated students, in which they participated in leadership development and environmental education programs and made extensive plans for the environmental future of their school. With the help of Madison and Parisse's environmental leadership, Cleveland High School has now raised awareness to all of its students through posters, clearly labeled wall units, an environmental art project, and a student-run composting system.

These students have earned my highest recommendation for Conservation Champions for our community!"

Nominated by Sarah Machacek, YMCA Earth Service Corps Program Instructor

"These two young ladies really do care about the planet and they give up their free time to do things like visit watershed consortiums and help clean up the banks of the dirty Duwamish. They are passionate about conservation and I would love to see their attitudes and endeavors supported."

Nominated by Andy Coughran

Daniel Bagley, Brooke Doyle & Lexy Relph



"Brooke and Lexy have been tirelessly working to increase walking biking at Bagley. Last year they started a walking school bus. This year, they were able to expand the WSB to 5 routes! Their walk-to-school day was also very successful, with 150 students participating. They've also started a blog with the routes on it to help organize families. Lexy and Brooke



have really rallied the parent volunteers at Bagley, making it a community-owned project. The families are very committed to its success! They have also been willing to share ideas and help parents at other schools troubleshoot some common problems. They are a great resource."

[go to <http://bagleywalkingschoolbus.blogspot.com/> for more information about the Bagley Walking School Bus]

Nominated by Kimberly Christensen

Denny International Middle School, Lisa Kelleher

"Since beginning the Washington Green Schools program, Lisa has been instrumental to the movement to have conservation education integrated into Middle School curriculum. She has worked to have hundreds of students involved and continues to gain more and more momentum. Before she and her Green Team became certified in Waste and Recycling with Washington Green Schools. Now they are working on water quality and water education by focusing on a "Toilets to Sound" campaign. Lisa is paving the way for students to have conservation education in the classroom and that is why we believe she is a Conservation Champion."

Nominated by Washington Green Schools

Eckstein Middle School, Jessica Levine

"I've only been at Eckstein for a year, but it was very obvious from the start that Ms. Levine was a Conservation Champion. She is the go-to teacher for conservation ideas and spearheaded a bike-to-school program at Eckstein. Even though conservation isn't a large piece of the district's curriculum, Ms. Levine has pushed to integrate these concepts into her own curriculum. In her class, you can find her reusing water during labs, reusable cloth towels instead of paper towels, and a solar panel to power some of her electronics. Finally, Ms. Levine is a conservation model to students and faculty as she bikes to school, in rain or shine."

Nominated by Jennifer Pan

Emerson Elementary School, Lisa Woo

"Lisa is a new member of the Emerson school community, but has already made leaps and bounds toward education our students and staff about the ways we can take care of our environment. As our Nutrition Educator, Ms. Woo has brought a new, refreshing perspective on food that ties concepts like eating local produce and the farm to table process into how we can live healthier lives. But the biggest reason why Ms. Woo has earned the Conservation



Champion Award is because she's taken the initiative to find funding for and launch a new school garden at Emerson. She's formed partnerships with Seattle Tilth, Cedar Grove, Tiny Tots Development Center, and Marra Farm to create an exciting new program that allows our students to learn the full circle process of our food system. We are so excited that she's organized a "Compost Awareness Week" to introduce the possibilities of bringing a compost program to our school and teach everyone about food waste. She really is working tirelessly to build this garden from scratch and give our students the best experience possible! Thanks, Ms. Woo!"



Nominated by Brian Sindel

Franz H. Coe Elementary, Page Crutcher

"Coe Elementary Native Garden: Coe Cares, a committee at Coe Elementary, works to engage students in meaningful projects that promote better understanding of our communities and the world through a variety of service projects. The goal of the committee is to explore ways of contributing and getting involved that are age appropriate and promote agency among children.

Coe Elementary nominates Coe parent, Page Crutcher, licensed Landscape Architect, to receive the Conservation Champion Award. Students will work with Crutcher, to develop a native-plants garden on the school grounds that will teach children about low maintenance and low-water dependent gardening and the importance of native habitats. The onsite garden will allow children to

observe the project year round and note the effects of more and less water through the seasons. Further, the project will include discussion of water, water conservation, water scarcity, water as a commodity, and the basic human need for water. The project will be ongoing and each year new groups of students will be introduced to the garden.

The work will highlight native plant communities indigenous to the Puget Sound region. Students will be provided with the opportunity to study the diversity of native plants in the context of their natural communities. The design will include drought-tolerant (once established) native plants, a proposal for a future cistern to capture rainwater off of the adjacent breezeway roof, and include a few research plots for testing and growing more unique native plants.

Page Crutcher is a dynamic teacher of children and adults with over 20 years of professional experience as a landscape architect. She has worked on numerous public and private landscapes including Seattle Public School sites that have integrated sustainable native landscapes into their campuses, enriching the school sites, and providing the opportunity for students to learn about the indigenous habitats and the importance of them in the greater urban landscape.

Crutcher has worked on similar gardens and landscapes around town including Loyal Heights Elementary School, Lakeside Middle School, Carkeek Park, Thyme Patch Park, Pinehurst Pocket Park, Magnuson Community Gardens, and Nora's Woods.

Nominated by Virginia Turner, principal

Gatewood Elementary, Jeannie Revello

"Jeannie Revello and others at Gatewood are heavily involved in environmental activities. Gatewood was one of the pioneers in starting composting at Seattle schools and currently diverts around 9 tons of compostable waste per year from the landfill. They recently expanded the program to the cafeteria kitchen, school events, and the staff lounge, and several classrooms (with smaller compost buckets that students empty each day). Gatewood has stepped up recycling diversion as well and have had to move from a 6 yard to an 8 yard dumpster (weekly) for recycling diversion.

Gatewood also has several small gardens, uses non-toxic/refillable whiteboard markers, hosts a walking school bus, participates in bike to school month each May (and had to install a second bike rack!), has gone electronic with as much communication as possible, and uses integrated pest management for pests and weeds. In addition, Jeannie and the transportation committee, with assistance from Coolmom.org's "Think Outside the Car" campaign has instituted a no-idling policy and signage for morning drop-off and afternoon pickup lines. Formerly, parents sat in idling cars for as much as 20 minutes during pick-up.

Car miles saved from 2012 bike to school month was estimated at around 1,000 miles (accounting for siblings that would have been in the same car together).

Gatewood hopes to use any grant money to build further on our green team efforts and to purchase recycled content copy paper."

[go to <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=00stif4PVCw&feature=youtu.be> to view the "Think Outside the Car" video]

Nominated by Michelle Gaither



Green Lake Elementary, Ed Roos

"I would like to nominate Ed Roos as a Conservation Champion Award nominee. He has tirelessly worked with our staff and students at Greenlake to make us aware of our waste and then has worked to teach us how we can decrease the amount of waste we were producing. He has acquired new compost bins and recycle bins for us, he has held weekly meetings with our Green Team which he created to sustain this program next year. Our custodian has removed one garbage bin because we are producing less waste.

Presentations to staff and parents were given on the data about waste and were presented by the students which was even more effective as students are learning about the strategies and ways to reduce. As a result, Green Lake was able to reduce their landfill waste by over 50%. Ed soundly deserves this nomination.”

Nominated by Joanne Bowers, Principal

Greenwood Elementary, Linelle Milatchkov

“Linelle recycles paper that is printed only on one side, to be used on the other side; She puts boxes by the copy machines for people to put mistakes from the copier to be used by others; She tries to turn out the lights when she leaves a room if they are not needed; Linelle has been utilizing Email for communications rather than using paper; she buys supplies on sale and shares with others; Probably the biggest thing Linelle has done is to not buy a new car in years – as a school psychologist, she uses her 1993 Subaru Imprezza as a traveling office.”

Nominated by Sue Daley, CEOE

Jane Addams K-8, Jane Addams PTSA Recycling Committee

“We are creating a recycling station that will be more inviting than the jars & ream boxes tucked away in the office corners. PTSA created a recycling position to oversee this project. We also have a book list on sustainability and composting, each class participating in our food waste duty will receive a small set of books as a thank you.”

Nominated by Christine Benita

John Stanford International School, Barb Burrill

“Barb has started and managed an amazing program at John Stanford that teaches the students good stewardship. The students compost and recycle like champions, but they are also taught to think about engaging the larger community. They’ve hosted neighborhood recycling info nights, gone doorbelling to engage neighbors, made ornaments from lunchroom recycling and decorated Wallingford with them. Under Barb’s leadership, JSIS has started worm bins, planted native plants, started an afterschool class for making cool crafts from waste products, and mentored other schools as they look to begin compost and recycling programs. Barb cheerfully offers mentorship and support to other parents who want to make their schools greener. She serves as an ambassador from the public schools to the greater community. She engages the whole school in conservation activities, from getting compost and recycling into the classrooms to reducing the number of mini-fridges being used. She is a force to be reckoned with, and yet completely unassuming. She does this work because she knows it needs doing, and that it is the right thing to do. I don’t think you could find a person at any school across the district who is more dedicated to conservation, or who has been more willing to help other schools and the surrounding community. Barb is a treasure and a true conservation champion!”

Nominated by Kimberly Christensen

John Stanford International School, John Stanford Green Team, Nani Castor-Peck, and Barb Burrill

“Barb as a parent has gone above and beyond the call of duty. She, along with Nani Castor-Peck and students from John Stanford has led the charge for greening their school and community. This last year she and the John Stanford Green Team completed their THIRD Washington Green School Certification in Energy. They designed and implemented school-wide policies to minimize energy



usage and usher in behavioral change. They paid special attention to turning off lights, controlling shade usage, and unplugging all non-essential appliances. They discovered that teachers were not using the TV's in their classrooms and were able to unplug all of them! Through PTSA fundraising and the Seattle Public Schools Green Team funding they were able to replace a full sized refrigerator with a more compact and efficient model. With this funding they were also able to purchase a digital controller for the pottery kiln to reduce energy consumption and save teacher time as well. By devoting all of their time and effort to these energy saving measures, they have so far been able to decrease the schools consumption by 8%!"

Nominated by Washington Green Schools

John Stanford International School, Priscilla Barreras

"Maestra Priscilla (as she is the teacher of the 4th and 5th grade Spanish immersion classes) is the "Energizer Bunny" of JSIS, especially when it comes to classroom recycling. Always smiling, always engaging her students, always aware of what needs to be done with the daily duties of collecting compostables from the classrooms; all of this in addition to her new duties this year as teacher. Priscilla was the Instructional Assistant in the 4th and 5th grade Spanish classes for seven years, until last fall when she accepted the teacher's position in those classes.

Three years ago Priscilla initiated the program at JSIS where paper towels and other compostable items are collected in a small bucket in each classroom. In the afternoon 3rd graders, supervised by 5th graders, collect the small buckets and dump them into a 5 gallon bucket stationed on each floor. The large buckets are then walked to the Cedar Grove cart, near the dumpsters, for disposal. The students also pick up the large bag of compostables from the staff lounge.

Priscilla managed the process to create the JSIS Green Team shirts. The design was a combination of student design ideas which was then executed by Priscilla's talented son, a graphic artist. Every member of the Green Team receives a JSIS Green Team t-shirt. Enough shirts were ordered to supply many Green Teams to come.

Priscilla coordinates re-used juice pouch folder craft projects with the 4th grade pen pals from another school and is also coordinating a similar project with Roxhill Elementary. Priscilla has maintained a close relationship with Brent Hester, the former 4th-5th Spanish teacher at JSIS, who is now at Roxhill and is heading up their new Green Team.

Priscilla is always nearby to help out with special event recycling, recycling classes, waste audits, Green Team field trips. Not surprisingly, besides being a marathon recycler, she is also a marathon runner!

Maestra Priscilla makes sure we put the right things in the compost and/or recycling, and is very aware of what we're doing on the Green Team. Maestra Priscilla is also the one that keeps all of the compost bags and the key to the dumpster gate outside.

~Naomi Pleasure-Park, 5th grade

Maestra Priscilla makes the schedule for the Green Team 4th and 5th grade kids who are to do afternoon compost pickup and on which days. Then she reminds the kids who are on the schedule for that day. They go to a 3rd grade room to get students to train on how to collect the compost. She doesn't need to train the Green Team kids because they've done it since they were 3rd graders. She makes it fun to work on the Green Team because you feel like you're in charge.

~Carter Raaen, 5th grade"

Nominated by Barb Burrill



Lafayette Elementary, Cindy Adams

"I believe that Ms. Adams deserves recognition for her quest for conservation within the school. She nearly single-handedly runs the Green Team, who in turn works on such projects as why plants help our world, recycling in the lunchroom during lunches (giving of their own recess time), making posters to remind others of the importance of conservation, and many many other projects. She runs this team on her own time at 8:00 in the morning on Friday mornings. The team includes students of all ages, everyone is welcome. She even had t-shirts made so that others can spot team members and ask them questions about conservation. Cindy was definitely born to teach, the kids relate to her, and everything she does has some sort of teachable moment in it. She is a great example for everyone."

Nominated by Connie Wicklund

McClure Middle School, Serena Baserman

"Serena Baserman is an amazing young student that has single-handedly brought the composting/recycling program here to McClure Middle School in less than 3 months. As a teacher and staff member, I haven't been able to get the program going at all over the last 2 years. Essentially I agreed to sign up as the school contact for Serena and provided materials/ information that I had accumulated over the last several years.

Serena went around to all key staff members at the school and was able to convince all to give the program a try, after reassuring there wouldn't be extra work for any of the kitchen or custodial staff. Serena contacted district and city personnel to set up the initial audit and rounded up enough students to supervise and oversee the actual operation during breakfast and lunch each day. I met Serena as a 6th grader and she has been a mover and shaker since the day she arrived. She is tireless, highly motivated, highly capable of motivating those around her, an excellent role model, and seeks to excel in all her endeavors. I believe Serena's positive impact on the world will continue grow wherever she goes. I'm incredibly proud of her and grateful to have had the opportunity to work with her."

Nominated by Jean Littlefield

McDonald International School, Joanne Querin-Sorenson



"We would like to nominate our amazing Lunchroom Manager Joanne Querin-Sorenson at McDonald International Elementary School as a conservation champion for many reasons. For the last two years, she has consistently supported starting a composting program in the lunchroom, first with both Lowell APP and McDonald at Lincoln High, where she worked with another pioneering parent from Lowell to get both schools across three lunch periods achieving a successful composting program. After that was comfortably established, McDonald International Elementary moved back to its own building, with a significantly smaller lunchroom, still three lunch periods, three languages to be spoken in the lunchroom, and once again no composting program to speak of. Even before the new school building opened, she encouraged the start-up of a composting program and connected new McDonald parents with the existing program and people from Lowell. She attended meetings with parents and teachers after school, on her own time, and helped draft a new composting program, given the constraints of being in a brand new school and space. As the McDonald composting program (Green Team) has gotten underway, she has been

tireless and consistent in making this added waste management responsibility work for the school, and she has expert knowledge of the safety regulations and procedures regarding both the kitchen/lunchroom and recycling/composting rules. She volunteers to do extra washing of the compost supplies and has been very accommodating regarding their storage in the kitchen and cafeteria. She makes all volunteers feel welcome and appreciated, encouraging even the youngest kids to separate their lunch waste into compost, recycle and landfill bins at each table. She shows her commitment to composting daily while the rest of the volunteers (students, parents and children) rotate. She is adamant about proper sorting and also about not wasting food in the first place, a factor often overlooked in composting programs.

Simply put, our parent volunteer Green Team could not survive without her. Thus, for all of the above, and for the role model she is to all who use the lunchroom by virtue of her unfailing cheerfulness, warmth and concern for the students—she knows them all by name—and her exemplary dedication to the good management of McDonald's lunchroom, we urge you to consider her as a most deserving recipient of this year's Conservation Champion award."

Nominated by Tarah Helliwell, Sandhya Subramanian, Tom Crane et al. from MIGHT! (McDonald International Green Helper Team)

McDonald International School, Katherine Berg & Joey Mertel

"At McDonald International School, teachers Katherine Berg and Joey Mertel encouraged us this year to create a composting program and helped the "Green Team" students develop an innovative strategy for helping the younger students sort and dispose of their compost, recycling, and landfill. The teachers and kids were inspired by the ideas they saw being implemented at Islandwood and used a similar process at our school.

These two teachers are innovative with how they developed our composting program, collaborative with parents and other stakeholders, and care very much about teaching students to care for our environment."

Nominated by Daniel Golosman, Interim Principal

McDonald International School, Tarah Helliwell

"Tarah Helliwell, a parent at McDonald, spearheaded our MIGHT! (McDonald International Green Helper Team) composting/recycling program for our school cafeteria and tirelessly volunteers her time and energy to make sure the program continues to be successful at our school."

Nominated by Happie Ari

Mercer Middle School, Rex Gaoaen

"Given a small amount of time (starting with an e-mail from myself to Principal Christopher Carter) Rex was able to organize a group of middle school students in the middle of the school year to compost and recycle during their lunch period. In addition, he was able to organize a Student Green Team, and also inspired the staff (including two science teachers) to add composting stations in their classrooms. This has saved the school \$400 a month on our garbage pick-ups. Job Well Done!!!"

Nominated by Chris Hopper, Licensed Assistant

"Rex is doing a good job working with the students on composting and now our school students are about 90% to 95% doing composting in the lunch room. Also we cut down our dumpster pick up from twice per week to once per week."

Nominated by Bryan Wong, Custodial Engineer

Olympic Hills Elementary, Meagan Green

"Besides having the perfect name to be a conservation champion, Meagan Green is the Family Services Provider for our on-site Head Start program. They are housed in a portable on our school grounds. Three classes of pre-school children each eat one snack and one meal on site four days a week. All the food comes from our lunchroom and all their waste was going into our building's landfill dumpster. This fall Meagan got word that the K-5 students had started recycling and composting and approached me. "Can we participate too?" she asked. Megan and her staff wanted not only to reduce the waste they sent to the landfill but had a bigger vision. They wanted to educate their children from an early age about recycling so that by the time they get to kindergarten it would be second nature to them. They also realized that the best way for their students to learn was from older students so they invited members of our student green team to come in and talk to each of their classes about the benefits of recycling. The 3 and 4 year olds were totally in awe of these older stewards of the environment. There is so much to learn in kindergarten. Studies show that Head Start has a huge benefit for children academically and socially. I am so grateful that Megan and the pre-school teachers are also giving their children a head start on caring for the environment."

Nominated by Debbie Bermet

Olympic Hills Elementary, Olympic Hills Student Green Team

"These 4th and 5th grade student leaders give up their before-school, lunch and afternoon recesses to help other students sort their waste from breakfast and lunch and they help kindergarten students in their classroom to learn to recycle. Each student had to submit a written application letter stating why they should be chosen to be part of the school's green team. Some examples of their reasoning are: "I want to make a difference in the world", "I want to stop overflowing our environment's landfills", "I want to make the world a better place" and "I want our school to make less trash and I thank the garbage people for making it easy". The green team was given the decision of using school shared savings money to purchase blue recycling bins for the classrooms (we currently have green ones) or to save the money. They voted overwhelming to save the money and to paint the bins or cover them with blue paper to achieve the goal of consistency. They are forward thinking, responsible and hardworking students that make us all proud."

Nominated by Debbie Bermet, Student Green Team advisor

"This group of 4th and 5th graders help with composting at lunch which makes a huge difference with the primary students. They also help with recycling in all of the classrooms which makes it much easier as a classroom teacher to recycle paper."

Nominated by Eileen Griep

Pathfinder K-8, Amy Pille

"Amy has worked with Pathfinder K-8 for the past 3 years as the coordinator of the Earth Project. She has started and managed a Green Team that includes lunchroom and after school student-lead conservation efforts. She is spearheading the Green Schools Certification and is working expand the Green Team to breakfast and events. She is teaching students about the value of the natural world through an organic gardening program, and supports efforts to get students out into the greenbelt behind our school. Her passion for environmental care has inspired students and adults alike to be more ecologically conscious at Pathfinder."

Nominated by Patrick Wildermann

"Amy has spearheaded multiple green projects at our school. A teaching vegetable garden, recycled cold frames as well as the "Green Team" which helps in the lunch room to teach kids to separate recycling/compost/landfill. She continues to explore new



ways to better our school through not only teaching, but implementing green tenets into our students everyday lives.”

Nominated by Whitney McBride

“She runs the Garden Program and teaches the kids hands on skills. The kids get to start plants from seeds and go through the whole process including cooking and eating. Amy helps kids compost the food waste from lunch.”

Nominated by Angie Meyer

“Amy set up a great composting/recycling program in the lunch room that the kids run. She helped our kids build and run an amazing garden. She works in the garden area continually with all students grades K-8.”

Nominated by Sue Bell

“Amy is our Garden Teacher and we are so fortunate to have her. Every child gets to be out in the garden every week learning how to turn soil into food. Amy’s instigated the Earth Team to involve kids in composting and recycling in the cafeteria and other reduce, reuse, recycle projects. She’s working on installing a rain garden. Most important to me, my daughter, a 2nd grader, is now an avid eater of kale straight from the garden! Amy is an asset to our community.”

Nominated by Betsy Hoffmeister

Sand Point Elementary, Zoe Manzo (5th Grade teacher), Alicia Cullison (parent volunteer), Julie Hampden (parent volunteer), Cheri Bloom (Sustainability Coordinator), and the Green Team of Sand Point Elementary (students)

“Ms. Manzo, Alicia Cullison, and Ms. Bloom have formed a great team to organize the sustainability and conservation efforts at Sand Point Elementary. Ms. Manzo helps Alicia organize the Green Team, which meets every Friday at lunch time, however this could not have happened without the guidance of Ms. Bloom, who has coordinated Green Teams at other area schools. Together they were

able to structure the Green Team as a group of school leaders who not only monitor the waste station at lunch time, but also participate in peer education projects. Sand Point Elementary was recently certified as a Level 1 Washington Green School due to the efforts of these people in getting a lunchroom composting program up and running. We already have plans for lasting changes for our next two WAGS levels! Watch for SPE to be a Level 3 school soon! Ms. Bloom also coordinates the school's garden and garden curriculum, making it possible for the teachers to bring their classes out to the school garden for experiential instruction. Ms. Bloom and Ms. Julie have done an amazing job planning and implementing our garden curriculum, so that our teachers can focus on their classroom instruction. Julie Hampden, along with WAGS has organized a huge Earth Day event at Sand

Point Elementary in which we will be building benches for our outdoor classroom, with volunteers and donations from many community organizations! At this event, we will have Rick Swann (author of Our School Garden), as well as tables from Sustainable Seattle and other area organizations in order to educate families and our local community about rain gardens and local sustainability efforts.”

[go to <http://sandpointelementarypta.org/our-school/greenteam/> to view the Sand Point Elementary Green Team website.]

Nominated by Alicia Cullison



Sand Point Elementary, Cheri Bloom

“Sandpoint Elementary presented a particularly interesting and unique challenge for conservation. This is a new school that has recently opened in an area that has a highly diverse student body. Cheri was brought in from her work with Montlake Elementary and TOPS K-8 as a consultant on how to begin a composting and recycling program at Sandpoint Elementary. Through her hard work and previous experience leading the way, her and the Sandpoint Green Team were able to reduce waste consumption in their school and achieve Washington Green Schools Level 1 certification. Cheri does an amazing job balancing multiple schools and making a difference in all of them. We believe her to be an excellent example for all Green Team leaders and are thrilled to nominate her as a Conservation Champion.”

Nominated by Washington Green Schools

Seattle World School, Seattle World School Student Conservation Crew

“The Seattle World School (SWS) Student Conservation Crew has cut the amount of cafeteria waste to almost 1/8 of what we threw away prior to the conservation effort. Added to that, the students



have recently begun switching from the plastic to metal forks to further reduce waste. Each day, 3-5 students stand at the cafeteria recycle table during breakfast and lunch to ensure all waste is correctly disposed of by both SWS and NOVA students. The Student Conservation Crew has chosen to purchase additional classroom recycle bins with their school Conservation Budget to increase the correct recycling of paper products throughout the school.”

Nominated by Martin O’Callaghan, Principal



Van Asselt Elementary, Brian Sindel

“As a member of Van Asselt’s ‘Green Team’ Brian has put forth great efforts to make the school a more sustainability-focused environment. With his role as a Nutrition Educator, he spends most of his time around food; be it chopping, sautéing, serving, eating, but never throwing away! He shudders at the term ‘food waste’ and has made it his mission to ensure that no food used in his lessons ever be referred to as such. In order to make this a reality he has created a system for collecting unused food scraps and all serving utensils to take offsite for composting. Not only does he do this to cut back on the amount of waste created at the school but also as a means for educating the students about the importance of conservation. Most recently Brian has found himself outside working on building our new garden for which he will team with students to foster an appreciation for nature and emphasize the value of growing fresh organic foods from seed to plate.”

Nominated by Lisa Woo

Van Asselt Elementary, Louis Byers & the Van Asselt Custodial Team

“The custodial team makes sure that every light is turned off and that waste is managed appropriately. With their help, we received a 2011/12 Shared Savings Award of \$700 for conservation.”

Nominated by Allina Willis

Viewlands Elementary School, Julie Pearson

"Viewlands Elementary is an incredibly diverse school with people from all walks of life attending it. Julie, with the help of Rachel Schilke and the Green Team attended one our Seattle Student Summit and then later attended our Seattle Teacher Training. From these events, she and the Green Team gained the inspiration to spearhead a recycling and composting campaign in their school. They have successfully been able to go from two garbage dumpsters to just one, cutting their garbage bill in half! They have no achieved their Level 1 Washington Green Schools certification. Julie has set a great example for many other elementary schools in Seattle to follow and we are proud to nominate her as a Conservation Champion."

Nominated by Washington Green Schools

Washington Middle School, Chris Bates

"Mr. Bates, in the midst of his duties teaching math here, made our composting program finally a reality after years of hearing people talk about doing it. He trained our 8th grade "Green Team" students to do classroom presentations, contacted the Cedar Grove folks and other necessary parties and coordinated meetings to set up and prepare our large (1160 students,) diverse Central Area school for this week's official start. He personally supervised the sorting stations during this first week during his own lunch break, and used some of his precious prep time to follow up after lunches. It's been a huge success so far, with many motivated students volunteering to train their peers in the sorting of their lunch remains, and we've already saved a lot of food from the dumpsters as well as GREATLY reducing our trash output in the first week."

Nominated by Susan Huntley, Tutoring coordinator

West Woodland Elementary, Jennifer Johnson Kostinich

"I would like to nominate Jennifer Johnson Kostanich as a Conservation Champion at West Woodland Elementary. Jen began the composting and recycling program in West Woodland's lunchroom and continues to manage it. All 487 students now recycle and compost their lunchroom waste with the help of four trained 5th graders. The fifth graders teach the primary students about recycling and composting and oversee all students during lunch. They also manage the recycle/compost bins in the teacher's lunchroom. Jen manages the scheduling of students to oversee the composting in the lunchroom and trains them in the use of bio-bags and putting the materials in outside bins. Providing students this opportunity to learn about recycling and composting and to be leaders in the school are important life-long learning skills.

Jen and her class have also introduced compost bins in classrooms. Her fifth graders introduced the bins to every classroom. Students in these classrooms now manage their compost, thus passing on leadership to the younger students.

When Jen noticed that students were using more paper towels than necessary she rallied her troops to create and post stickers on the paper towel dispensers. The stickers read "These Come From Trees." She and her students brought a message to reduce use of paper towels to the whole school.

Jen and her students have a new idea for conserving water. She and another teacher are working with students to correct the water waste that occurs daily at our hallway bathrooms. The sinks are designed so that when one student wants to wash their hands, 5 spigots turn on even though only one is being used. Students are collecting data about the water waste that occurs. They are researching the cost of changing this feature so that each spigot can be turned on individually. Again, Jen is giving students



responsibility for researching and leading this effort. Our school benefits from this innovative practice by improved conservation and increased student leadership and engagement in the community.

Nominated by Marilyn Loveness, principal

