

Feb. 18, 2025 Sustainability Meeting – Earth Day breakout room

Malgosia - Franklin Elem.

- Looking into Ridwell Plastic Collection Program
 - <https://blog.ridwell.com/schools-drive-2025>
 - Registration is passed for this year, so look for it in fall and spring of 2025-2026.
 - School can get free pickup service if 10 new members signup related to this drive.
 - Jeannette and Carol use this service and highly recommend it!
- Aligning with STEM Symposium
 - bringing in environmental speaker
- Looking into Tree planting
 - <https://www.kirklandwa.gov/Government/Departments/Public-Works-Department/Storm-Surface-Water/Green-Stormwater-Infrastructure-GSI/Tree-Planting-Rebates>
 - <https://bellevuewa.gov/city-government/departments/community-development/environmental-stewardship/trees-open-space/tree-giveaway>
- Have a school garden

Shilpi - Redmond Elementary

- Week of activities
 - Student Art projects - How do you want Earth to look?
 - Student presentations in classrooms about What you can do to help
 - Reading Books on the subject of conservation and/or Book Swap
 - Writing individual pledge cards to put on poster

Colleen McClosky - Peter Kirk Elementary

- Week of activities
 - In past sent flyers - maybe not the best sustainability practice!

- Last year used lawn signs
- Ideas from Pinterest (add links from Colleen):
 - Monday - Upcycling Art
 - Tuesday - Initiative - What can you do?
 - Wednesday - Reusable supplies for lunch
 - Thursday - Scavenger Hunt
 - Friday - Footprint Survey

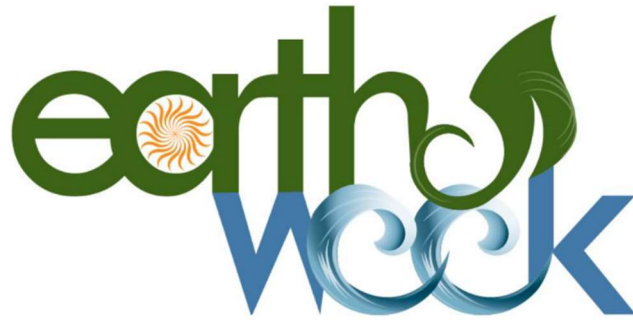
Jeannette - **Eastlake HS**

- Not sure what we are doing specifically for Earth Day/Week/Month, was looking for inspiration here.
 - Green team has some ideas but not sure what they are.
 - Some of these ideas work at HS level, some do not.
 - Curious what people do for a month.
- How do we measure success of these activities?
 - Hard to do...
 - Same types of pledges can be collected in clear boxes to show how many people are sharing the same pledge and communicating unity and contribution to the bigger picture.
 - E.g. 3 minute showers, no plastic forks, water bottles, walk to school, etc
 - Example from Woodland Park Zoo

Cheers! 😊

Jeannette

Here is Colleen McCloskey's earth week example from last year:



Are **You** an **Ecowarrior**, or a **Green Thumb**...**April 17-21 is Earth Week** and the Peter Kirk PTSA Sustainability Committee and Peter Kirk Green Team have partnered to put together some ideas to **inspire You** to **act** and make a **difference** in the world **around us!**

Let's shift our mindset to **Reduce, Reuse, and Recycle!** Let's do something for our Planet!

Program for the week: Actionable activities – 1 for each day of the week. Click on the links to see what you can do!

- **Make it Monday** - [Upcycle Art Projects](#), what CAN You **create**?
- **Take Initiative Tuesday** - [What CAN You do](#) to make a **difference**
- **Waste-Free Wednesday** - [Bring reusable or recyclable food containers](#) for lunch!
- **Thoughtful Thursday** - Connect with NATURE; walk, sit, observe, and enjoy a [Scavenger Hunt!](#)
- **Footprint Friday** - Tread lightly, take an online carbon footprint survey to see your impact, and how YOU CAN make positive changes [Carbon Footprint Reduction](#)

Feb. 18, 2025 Sustainability Meeting - Gardening breakout room

Aspen sharing Guide for Sustainability for School Gardens, Grounds and “Sponsored Projects”

Blackwell Elementary: Colleen reviewed history of Blackwell’s garden. *Parents applied for a Blackwell PTSA grant to fund the project, but also had to complete a Sponsored Projects form to get permission from the district. LWSD grounds crews cleared the space and assembled the raised beds. The rain barrel was obtained through a subsequent PTSA grant as completed by a separate LWSD Sponsored Project. The PTSA provided plants and class activities the first spring and following fall. The Green Team did a fall clean up in 2024 with LWSD providing and spreading mulch around the grounds (not in the garden beds). The PTSA used \$500 from the School Beautification budget to purchase bulbs, plantings and mulch in the fall. The PTSA has started a garden club this year and will meet three times in the spring to work on projects (TBD). The PTSA is asking for a \$20 contribution towards the club.*

Redmond Elementary, Chayanaka: Curious about grants to obtain items such as a rain barrel. It is difficult to maintain gardens during summer, would like to have a system around it. Garden team/green team planted flowers/bulbs recently. Some families take turns to water, as well as custodian. Has explored grants and found one from **WaterWorks King Co. Watershed Treatment**. (I found this online: <https://kingcounty.gov/en/dept/dnrp/about-king-county/about-dnrp/grants-partnerships/waterworks-grant>)

Audubon Elementary, Meredith’s school has a **rain barrel**. They have had trouble with barrels being knocked over by kids or teens from outside the school. There are also maintenance issues and it became too much work so they are still there but not being used. Colleen will ask the principal how the rain barrel is being used at Blackwell – *I did ask office staff today and they advised reaching out to our Green Team teacher.*

Nirali: the **Timberline Middle School** teacher changed Green Team to a Garden Club. **Ella Baker Elementary** has six beds. They did a sponsored PTSA project and created a learning area/outdoor classroom right next to garden. She doesn’t know how successful it’s been. Growing veggies and flowers. Each grade gets a bed and was responsible for different activities such as watering or harvesting, but it keeps changing because the models aren’t working well. A teacher is actively involved this year. A few families signed up to work in the garden during the summer. Their PTSA offers a stipend. Their 4th grade has an indoor garden with maybe two hydroponic units. The students grew lots of veggies (a lot of kale), and they mostly gave away to the staff. The District offers a stipend to Green Team in elementary schools, but the PTSA has a line item in their budget as well. They might be using class time

to work in the garden since a teacher is sponsoring. Green Team also sometimes uses recess or lunch time. **Blackwell** has a line item for School Beautification for \$500. **Cedar Grove** will provide 10 yards of free compost to schools. Cedar Grove will deliver for \$200, or a request can be made to LWSD to haul it but have to pay time and a half to staff on a weekend. Aspen guesses that a full 10 yards of compost won't be needed for the garden beds (roughly 60 wheelbarrows full). A parent could also pick up on their own if they have a truck.

How are people raising money for their school gardens? Alcott asked for donations of gloves, seeds and watering cans. Nirali has a few hundred dollars in their PTSA budget. Alcott maybe did a PTSA grant to establish the garden. Redmond MS has a green house. They hold plants sale events to raise money.

Mead Elementary, Anastasia: she was going to bring up Cedar Grove and the free compost as well. There are a lot of **seed companies that donate to schools** too. Baker Creek Heirloom Seed Company and Johnny's Seeds were mentioned. She has reached out to **Master Gardeners** in Redmond. They have crates that they can deliver to schools for pollination, etc... She's making sure everything is legal and not in conflict with LWSD grounds crews. Their PTSA is sponsoring the garden as their big project for the school year. Gardens may have been brought up at an Advocacy meeting recently. The advice was to **get teachers involved early in the school year in order to get this into their curriculum**. Sustainability team gets a stipend to work with the Green Team at Mead. **Should it be just the Green Team or entire school that gets involved?** Anastasia will post the Redmond master gardener info on FB page and send to Aspen.

From Anastasia Lloyd-Smith (417-631-1988) ana.bell.bishop@gmail.com>

For anyone interested in a great resource for their green teams or gardens, here's the webpage/email link for the **master gardeners educator partnership**. Our summer school co-op especially loved the worms and pollinator teaching kits that were loaned to us, and the program educator that we were paired with in Redmond is especially helpful!

<https://extension.wsu.edu/king/gardening/educational-resources/teaching-children-about-gardening-and-nature/kits-for-teaching-children-and-youth-about-gardening/>

Coordinator email: king.mg@wsu.edu

Garden sheds: helpful to have for supplies. Nirali worked with LWSD to get a shed. PTSA funded it. **LWSD has requirements around sheds.**

Eastlake High School has not been successful in establishing a garden. Their green team teacher will be interested in our discussion.

Colleen will follow up with Eileen from Arbor Montessori to see how their garden has progressed over the years and any lesson plan ideas.