

DEDICATED TEACHERS AND STUDENTS BEGIN RECYCLING CLUB AT H.C. WARNER ELEMENTARY IN JESSAMINE COUNTY

Twelve of Jessamine County’s finest students have given up their Tuesday afternoons to help Ms. Andrea Dean and Ms. Connie Donaldson, teachers at Warner Elementary, start a white paper recycling program.



The Recycling Club spent every Tuesday of the fall semester: learning about the importance of recycling; brainstorming marketing techniques to encourage participation in the school recycling program; and designing handouts for teachers, parents and students that encourage recycling at home.

With help from PRIDE’s AmeriCorps member, the Warner Elementary Recycling Club secured a donation of 40 bins from Staples. In January, these bins will be placed in classrooms throughout the school, and the students will begin to collect white paper during their Tuesday afternoon club time. In future years, the Recycling Club and its sponsors hope to expand their efforts to include other recyclables, such as, cardboard, plastic and aluminum.

The club will also continue to learn about the importance of recycling. The money that had been set aside for bins will now be used to fund a club trip to Lexington-Fayette County Urban County Government’s Recycling Center in early 2006.

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It's not the most exciting way to start the New Year, but I feel it is important to keep you up-to-date on our funding situation. As you know, we had to cut our grants program this fall because we did not receive a federal appropriation for fiscal year 2005. Unfortunately, we were again left out of the appropriation process for fiscal year 2006.

That means we are down, but certainly not out. There are several options being pursued that will enable us to carry on with our outreach programs, and we will continue to pursue funds that will allow us to reinstate our grants programs. I am asking for your support in these efforts. Details about who to contact and when will be forthcoming.

In the meantime, we are still open for business! Several of you plugged into our programs this fall, and you can read about the hard work of a few of our partners in this issue of Truffula Times. Those of you already involved, we hope to continue to work closely with you through the remainder of the school year and on into future school years.

For those of you who haven't worked with PRIDE yet, it's not too late! There are plenty of upcoming projects, including: a waste reduction workshop (see page 7); an outdoor classroom workshop (see page 8); and waste buster activities (see pages 4-6). We would love to work with you and your students on waste reduction or any other environmental topic, so just give us a call.

Best wishes for a fantastic 2006!

Angela Dossitt

WONDERFUL WEBSITE

The Resourceful Schools Project- Saint Louis, MO

www.resourcefulschools.org

The site is packed with resources, activities, lessons, games and fun facts relating to waste reduction. Some of the information focuses on programs available specifically in St. Louis, but most of the programs available through the Resourceful Schools Project are also available through Bluegrass PRIDE.

STUDENTS TRY TO WATCH THEIR WASTE

WRITTEN BY MARY MURPHY

Trash, trash, trash. It's everywhere. It is in our schools, homes, stores, and in the streets. It doesn't even seem like anyone is doing much to stop this build-up of junk, right?...WRONG!

Many students at Boyle County High School, led by teachers Amy Farr and Jamie Hester, and coordinated by Junior, Mary Murphy, have been hard at work to find a way to reduce the trash created by the school each day. BCHS has developed a waste audit team. Their soul purpose is to create a way to reduce, reuse, and recycle the trash their school produces.

The most recent waste audit of BCHS concluded that the bulk of the school's trash comes from what some students like to call the lob-a -dance-a-teria. The cafeteria and gym have been under construction since the start of the school year, and that means the lobby has now become a cafeteria, lobby, and place to have dances all in one. Because of the construction, the school is required to individually wrap every piece of food, which creates an excess of plastic and Styrofoam (every environmentalist's enemy). The cafeteria alone creates 295 pounds of trash a day, which added to the 99 pounds of classroom waste and 21 pounds of restroom waste, adds up to 415 pounds of trash per day generated at BCHS.

All this trash is not acceptable to the students at BCHS, especially since about 50% of it can be recycled. To try and solve this problem the waste audit team plans to expand its school's recycling program to include paper products as well as the aluminum cans and plastic bottles it already collects. All the collecting is done by students and the recyclables are taken to the local recycling center by volunteer teachers. The waste audit team plans to issue to every teacher: a letter detailing the recycling of paper products; a reused paper box to collect the recycled paper; and a sign to post above the box telling what kind of paper is recyclable.

It is hoped that once all the construction is done and the project is fully underway that the pounds of trash will crash and maybe inspire other schools to start their own recycling programs.



HANDS ON

I G H L I G H T S

HOST A WASTE FREE LUNCH DAY AT YOUR SCHOOL!

Whether your entire school participates or just your classroom, hosting a Waste Free Lunch Day (or even Week!) is a great way to introduce waste reduction concepts to your students. Below are some suggestions on how to host a Waste Free Lunch:

- Introduce students to the concept of a Waste Free Lunch: cloth napkins, reusable containers for drinks and food, sturdy plastic or stainless steel silverware that can be washed and used again, no discarded food and a cloth, plastic or metal lunchbox
- Encourage students to brainstorm creative ways to reduce waste in their lunches: i.e., don't buy individually wrapped foods; bring washcloths for napkins; wash and reuse sports drink bottles; reuse empty bread bags or produce bags to send sandwiches, etc.
- Develop a bulletin board explaining the benefits of a Waste Free Lunch (cheaper than lunches with lots of packaging, less waste into landfills, etc.)
- Send home an information sheet to parents on Waste Free Lunches (available in the Waste Reduction section of PRIDE's website, www.KentuckyPRIDE.com)
- Encourage students to take home uneaten food for after school snacks
- Set up a composting bin in your classroom or school for leftover food that cannot be taken home (more information can be found on PRIDE's website)
- Encourage cafeteria personnel to use reusable flatware and silverware
- Organize a classroom pot luck where each student brings in something to share and their own reusable flatware and silverware
- Have children weigh and graph the amount of lunch trash on days prior to, during and after the Waste Free Lunch celebration and discuss results (including where the trash is going)
- Have a poster contest advertising the day
- Set up a demonstration table with examples of waste-free lunch do's and don'ts



- Make announcements over the PA
- Have Waste Free Lunch challenges: Which class generates the least amount of waste? Which class had the most kids participating?
- Make a web page announcing your classrooms or school program and results (the Waste Free Lunch section at www.resourcefultschools.org can show you how)

For more information on Waste Free Lunches please visit www.KentuckyPRIDE.com and www.wastefreelunches.org. If you would like some help in developing a Waste Free Lunch day or week please email Kendell Nash at americorps@kentuckypride.com or call 1-866-222-1648.

RECYCLING CLUB CONTINUED

Continued from page 1

Thanks to these Warner Elementary students and teachers who are taking personal responsibility for their environment!



Fifth graders: Cynthia Jones, Simone Marx and Avery Jones

Fourth graders: Lexie Brown, Jennifer Howson, Chanel Freeny, Nick Schult, Kyle Spencer, Shawna Watkins, Michael Benson, Lucas Morris and Luke Flinchum

Teachers: Ms. Andrea Dean and Ms. Connie Donaldson

For more information on Warner Elementary's Recycling Club or for help starting a Recycling Club in your school, please email Kendell Nash at americorps@kentuckypride.com or call 1-866-222-1648.

BE A WASTE BUSTER!

Bluegrass PRIDE is looking for more classrooms to earn the coveted designation of “Waste Buster Classroom”. If your classroom joins the Waste Buster Program and completes all of the requirements by April 3, 2006, PRIDE will recognize you and your students with a plaque and an awards ceremony at your school at the end of the year.

To be eligible for the Waste Buster Program individual classrooms must complete eight classroom activities, eight enrichment activities and a culminating event in April or May. Waste reduction lessons and activities are in the Waste Reduction Unit available on CD or in the For Educators section of www.KentuckyPRIDE.com.

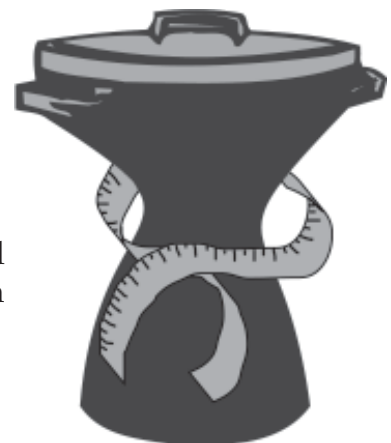
January is not too late to start! All of the activities in the Waste Reduction Unit are arranged in a suggested timeline. However, you may conduct classroom and enrichment activities in any order and at any time. PRIDE also has an AmeriCorps member who will lead as many of these activities in your classroom as you wish. Plus Kendell can help coordinate the culminating event for your classroom or school. Some examples of culminating events include holding a waste free lunch day, planning a media campaign on waste reduction issues, or planning and participating in a community clean-up day.

If you would like to participate in PRIDE’s Waste Buster Program or would like more information, please email Kendell Nash at americorps@kentuckypride.com or call 1-866-222-1648.



Waste Buster Award 2005 – 2006

This plaque is in recognition of the hard work and dedication to waste reduction shown by Mrs. Smith’s class.



PD OPPORTUNITY: WASTE REDUCTION WORKSHOP

Join **Bluegrass PRIDE** and explore possibilities for Waste Reduction in your classroom and school.

When: January 27, 2006 from 8:30 to 3:00

Where: Goodbarn at the University of Kentucky

Activities include:

- How to conduct a Waste Audit
- How to be a Waste Buster Classroom
- Brainstorming sessions and reports from classroom teachers
- How to conduct a Dumpster Dive
- How to develop a Waste Reduction Plan
- Lots of hands-on activities



Attendance is limited to the first 25 teachers registering with a maximum of two teachers from any school. **PRIDE will pay for substitutes and lunch.**

Teachers attending must agree to:

- Bring a bag of trash from their classroom
- Develop and implement a Waste Reduction Plan

PRIDE will **reimburse up to \$100 for materials** used to implement the Waste Reduction Plan (includes consumables, nonconsumables or fieldtrips). **RECEIPTS REQUIRED**

To register for the workshop, complete the form below and fax it to 859/266-0264. Completed forms can also be mailed to PRIDE at:

P.O. Box 910384, Lexington, KY 40591.

Name _____ School _____

School Address _____

Phone Number _____ Email _____

Grade & Subject _____ County _____

Principal Signature of Support _____

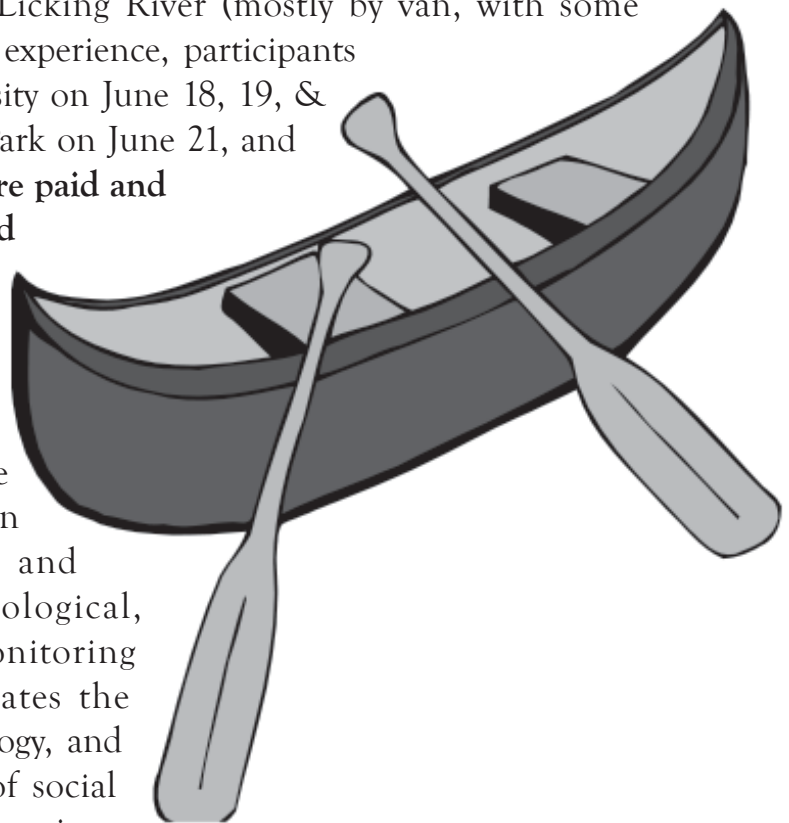
Questions may be directed to Maxine Rudder, Education Coordinator, (859) 266-1572 or by email, Maxine@kentuckyPRIDE.com

PD OPPORTUNITY: READING THE RIVER 2006

Dates: June 18-June 23

Explore the Licking River and Big Sandy River watersheds during a 6-day professional development experience! As part of this study, teachers will journey from the headwaters to the mouth of the Licking River (mostly by van, with some canoeing). During this residential experience, participants will stay at Morehead State University on June 18, 19, & 20, at Blue Licks Battlefield State Park on June 21, and at NKU on June 22. **All expenses are paid and teachers will receive a \$500 stipend and classroom resources.**

Content area specialists representing several state and local agencies are scheduled throughout the program to share their expertise on nonpoint source water pollution in relation to land use, history, and culture. Teachers will learn biological, physical, and chemical water monitoring techniques. The program integrates the sciences of biology, chemistry, geology, and physical science, as well as areas of social studies, practical living, and mathematics.



Course credit is available through Northern Kentucky University and Morehead State University. Course registration is by permission of instructor only. Course requirements include full participation in the program and the development of a unit of study.

The Reading the River application can be found at http://www.nku.edu/~scienceed/reading_the_river_2006.htm

This program is funded by the Environmental Protection Agency, Kentucky Division of Water, 319 Nonpoint Source Pollution Program, as part of the Commonwealth Water Education Project.



PD OPPORTUNITY: OUTDOOR CLASSROOM WORKSHOP

“If our kids are going to change the world, they need to learn how.”- David Suzuki

Join us from 8:30am to 4:00pm:

Wednesday, March 1st at

Campbell Co. Environmental Education Center

For:

- Information on using the environment as a means of teaching Core Content in *any subject*
- Information on using outdoor learning areas to engage students with diverse learning styles
- A testimonial from a local teacher about the benefits of using an outdoor classroom
- An overview of the types of outdoor learning areas & how to create them
- A session on purchasing, growing and teaching with native plants
- Information on improving local water quality through projects with students
- Your choice of Project Flying WILD or Project WILD Aquatic

PLUS- All participants will receive a one-year membership to the Kentucky Association for Environmental Education

Cost is only \$30. Registration deadline: February 17, 2006. To register, mail a completed registration form (available on PRIDE’s website www.kentuckypride.com) and a check made out to KAEE to:

Dr. Yvonne Meichtry
Northern Kentucky University
Center for Environmental Education
BEP 251
Highland Heights, KY 41099

Questions can be directed to Dr. Meichtry at 859/572-6380 or via email at meichtry@nku.edu.

This workshop is made possible by the KY Association for Environmental Education with funding from the KY Environmental Education Council and NKU’s Center for Environmental Education. Supporting partners include UK’s Campbell Co. Extension Service, the KY Department of Fish & Wildlife Resources, Bluegrass PRIDE and Sanitation District #1.



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*Please pass this newsletter to someone who might be interested,
file it or recycle it! THANKS!*

CONTACT BLUEGRASS PRIDE

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LOCAL 859-266-1572

OR

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