

2007/2008 Cobb County Annual Report Green School Initiative

The Cobb County Green School Initiative is a cooperative effort between Cobb County Water System, Keep Cobb Beautiful, and the Cobb County Parks and Recreation Natural Resources Unit. It was designed to promote development of environmental science curricula in Cobb Schools and to recognize schools for a commitment to environmental education. Schools could qualify as *Green* by having at least 5 teachers complete 5 environmentally beneficial lesson plans.

Eight Cobb County Schools received Green School Designation for the 2007/2008 school year. Mount Bethel, Ford, Keheley, and Sanders Elementary Schools all achieved Green School Gold Status Designation; meaning more than 15 teachers completed 5 environmentally friendly lesson plans. Mountain View Elementary School received Green School Silver Status Designation, with more than 10 teachers attaining Green Classroom Designations. The other Green School recipients were: Frey, Kennesaw, and Nicholson Elementary Schools. The Green Schools represent over 750 hours of environmental education reaching more than 3,300 students.

The 2007/2008 year of the Green School Initiative represents more than 100 staff hours by the Green School Coordinators. This investment is consistent with the Cobb County's participation as Partners at Large with Cobb County Schools.

Easy Being Green Activities Completed

Pollution - Wanted the students to find out if pollution (trash) could stop plants from growing on our planet. First they went out into the playground and collected as much trash from the ground as they could. They returned to the classroom and put the same amount of potting soil into two identical containers. They then planted some marigold seeds in each container. They put the trash on top of one container of planted seeds and labeled it 'With pollution' and left the other as it was and labeled it 'Without pollution'. They watered each container with the same amount of water each day and recorded their daily observations by drawing the containers making sure to draw any changes they saw. (Kindergarten)

Recycling— The teacher read the book 'Recycle Everyday!' by Nancy Elizabeth Wallace. The book is about a rabbit that has to design a recycling poster for school. Her family gives her lots of ideas throughout the book. They stopped at various pages in the book to discuss the different ways we can recycle, for example old clothes can be taken to Thrift Stores, plastic, metal, glass and paper can be taken to recycling bins, we can use fabric bags for our grocery shopping instead of plastic.

After this they talked about crayons...we had collected the broken and worn ones all year. I explained that we could recycle them by making 'Rainbow Crayons.' They then peeled all the paper off the crayons and the next day each child chose a variety of colors and put them into muffin tins. They went down to the school kitchen and baked the

crayons...they watched them melt and talked about how different they looked. When the crayons melted the teacher took them out and let them cool...the children guessed they would harden again! They now had rainbow crayons to use in our class. They recycled their crayons! Their next step will be to design our own recycling posters and display them on a bulletin board. (Kindergarten)

Plants - Students learned why each part of the plant is important and how the four basic needs are used by the plant parts and they will understand that animals are dependant on plants for their habitat. (1st Grade)

School Beautification - Children walk around and clean up school grounds- pick up trash etc. (1st Grade)

The Lorax – Students listened to the book, "The Lorax," by Dr. Suess. Upon conclusion of the story, students discussed what would happen without trees in our environment. Students brainstormed ideas of how kids could help preserve our trees and the ideas were recorded on a poster. (2nd Grade)

Saving Water in the Restroom - When students use the restroom they do not use paper towels or water to wash our hands. We have been using hand sanitizer to conserve water and paper towels. (2nd Grade)

Classroom Composting– Class created "enriched soil" by composting. We layered bananas, apple peels, and potato peels between layers of soil. They then covered the soil with plastic paper, punched a few holes for air, and let it sit in a sunny window for a few weeks. When we uncovered the soil, we stirred it and discovered the food had decomposed and a dark humus soil had formed. (3rd Grade)

Impact - After collecting data and graphing it the class will interpret the info to see what events could have contributed to the pollution or destruction of the river they are learning about, and ways to mend the situation. They will write a 2 -3 paragraph persuasive essay on the cause and effect relationship of people and their impact on rivers. (3rd Grade)

Water quality assessment training - In teams, students conducted several different assessments to determine the health of the water in Rube's creek. Students conducted tests of PH, turbidity, DO, phosphate, to look for macro invertebrates, and a general survey of the creek area. (3rd Grade)

Food Web Mobiles - Students create food web mobiles to examine the interrelationships in the local ecology. They discuss the consequences to the environment when a part of the food chain is removed. (4th Grade)

Polluting the Hooch - Students simulate the pollution of the Chattahoochee River by adding different pollutants to a tank of water. Each student contributes one item while the instructor reads *The River Ran Wild* in order to demonstrate how the quality of

rivers has changed over time. At the end, students examine stream runoff with the Enviroscope model. (4th Grade)

Abstract Trees - Students look at real trees, and found his or her own way to express the beauty of tree using the abstract style of art. (5th Grade)

Resource Wars – Study of imperialism during World War I and nations seeking to spread influence and gain natural resources. Lead to discussion of battles between Georgia and surrounding states for water. Students brain stormed what could be learned and how to avoid disputes in the future to share and conserve resources. (5th Grade)



Sanders Primary Students Planting

Green Teachers

Susan Feathers, a Fifth Grade teacher at Keheley Elementary School, was named the 2007/2008 *Green Teacher of the Year*. Ms. Feathers adapted a significant portion of her lessons to educate her students about the severe drought and water shortage in Georgia. Her creative, multi-disciplinary approach gave her students a broad perspective on the drought and the importance of water. Congratulations to Ms. Feathers for finding a way to use an environmental crisis as a teaching moment for her students.

2007/2008 Green Teachers

Ford Elementary

Barbara Birkbeck

Cynthia Edwards

Denise Keasler

Fran McMath

Janice Goodall

Kellee Strickland

Kelly Owen

Laura Holmes
Stephani Aldridge
Kay Applegate
Lauri Cook
Maria Ellis
Tara Jones
Mary Mathis
Cheri Nix
Barbara Warren
Nicole Rushin
Patti Jones
Peggy Robertson
Polly Baraon
Stephanie Beckett
Tina Smith
Hope Burgamy
Grace Manharth*

Frey Elementary

Sharon Fuss
Lisa Miller
Gary Jordan*
Dina Asher
Cheri Detwiller
Ann Driver
Melissa Hacker

Keheley Elementary

Amy Keirnan*
Audrey Ingalls
Brandy Mitchell
Cindy Winter
Dung Nguyen
Lois Collier
Lynne Roell
Melissa Tucker
Nesverie Gondek
Tina Yelkin
Kate Biello
Janet Buckley
Deborah Ryscamp
Susan Feathers
Annette Simpson

Kennesaw Elementary

April Simon
Melissa Sneed

Patricia Towne
Patricia Ucciferri *
Robin Waterfall

Marietta Academy
Diane Grant

Mount Bethel
B.J. Stevens
Eileen Jedlicka
Janet Jones
Jim Morris
Melissa Danner
Rich Mari
Amy Riordan
Heather Cillian
India Roberts
Jessica Kerzie
Jody Greenwald
Kim Osburn
Linda Hoogland
Marian Smith
Mariko Davison
Mary Alice George
Meredith Homoele
Meribeth Smith
Nancy Mawson
Shannon Sides
Tiffany Miller
Vicki Morgan
Jessie Roberts
Judith Berlage
Gail Bergstedt
Charlotte Stark
Beth Milne
Penny Schreck
Peggy Haag
Melina Birdsong
Maureen Mullins
Arleen Taffel
Lara Ferguson
Missy Bain *
Stacey Fogel
Alice Irvin
Nancy Costigan
Madge Marie Marks

Mountain View

Whitney Spooner
Stephanie Clatterbaugh
Sheri Walworth
Margaret Paon
Leah Wolsh
Lauren Cox
JoAnn Cushman
Joan Tinley
Jacque Stone
Gloria Holton
Diane Gillen
Cindy Bergeron
Eric Simpson *

Nicholson

Danielle Alcala
Judy Stephens
Cheryl Ashley-Serafine *
Michele Meyers
Susan Jackson

Sanders Elementary

Tammie Brown
Deb Billotte
Ashley Donald *
Wendy Astin
Shannon Jones
Sarah Seagroves
Sandy Jordan
Samantha Wagner
Nicole Morgan
Meghan Smith
Julie Chow
Joyce DeCarlo
Janet Kelly
Heather Curry
Amy Crosby
Amanda Lovett
Allison Tate
Abbey Long
Cindy Wagner *
Jill Thurman
Hui Bell
Erin Schularick
Candice Dyer
Marguerite Cagle

* Green School Coordinator



Mt. Bethel at Nature Center



Keheley Students Learn about alligators