

June 2016 Newsletter

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"The school is greatly benefiting from our school garden... [Students] are learning about where their food comes from and having so much fun doing it. They get so excited to get out and dig in the dirt, discover new creatures and learn how they all work together to help the plants grow!"

– Jessica Burt, Dryden Veterans Memorial School, Springfield

Hello GREEN TEAM Teacher!

Congratulations on all the wonderful environmental activities you and your students completed this year!

We received sixty-six Teacher Response Forms, describing an impressive array of activities across Massachusetts. Many schools have started collecting wasted food in their cafeterias for composting, expanded recycling programs, built school gardens, and started compost bins! Students are learning about climate change, energy sources, air quality, endangered species, reducing waste, and more.

Certificates and prizes have been awarded and were mailed last week to all schools that submitted a Teacher Response Form. A total of 19 GREEN TEAM Grand Prize winners, listed below, were selected to receive a recycling show, environmental concert, or garden supplies for their schools. [Click here](#) for the complete list of all 66 GREEN TEAM prize winners. Watch for the press release MassDEP will soon issue highlighting your accomplishments!

2015 - 2016 GREEN TEAM Grand Prize Winners				
School Name	Community	Teacher	Grade	GREEN TEAM Prize

Lt. Job Lane Elementary School	Bedford	Jean Mickle	3-5	Garden Supplies
Edward M. Kennedy Academy For Health Careers	Boston	Angela Cappucci	9-12	Garden Supplies
Hawlemont Regional School	Charlemont	Jean Bruffee	K-6	Recycling Show
Mount Alvernia Academy	Chestnut Hill	Maria Lyons	PreK-6	Garden Supplies
St. Mary Of The Annunciation School	Danvers	Stacy Drector	PreK-8	Earthtunes Concert
The Grow School	Dudley	Martha Burkett	K-12	Recycling Show
Leroy L. Wood Elementary School	Fairhaven	Kimberly Katz	K-5	Garden Supplies
Greenfield Math and Science Academy	Greenfield	Laurie Boosahda	4-7	Garden Supplies
Hopedale Memorial School	Hopedale	Jane LeClaire	5	Garden Supplies
Parthum Middle School	Lawrence	Julia Perlowski	3-8	Recycling Show
Washington Elementary School	Lowell	Cheryl Cunningham	4	Earthtunes Concert
Dr Frederick N Sweetsir School	Merrimac	Susan Simmons	Prek-2	Recycling Show
Helen R. Donaghue School	Merrimac	Susan Simmons	3-6	Garden Supplies
Albert S. Woodward Memorial School	Southborough	Mary Ellen Duggan	2-3	Recycling Show
West Street School	Southbridge	Dana Juozaitis	1	Recycling Show
Dryden Memorial School	Springfield	Jessica Burt	K-4	Garden Supplies
Ambrose Elementary School	Winchester	Laura Turenne	K-5	Earthtunes Concert
Lincoln Elementary School	Winchester	Lisa Cormier	K-5	Garden Supplies

Quinsigamond School	Worcester	Stephanie Syre-Hager	PreK-6	Garden Supplies
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GREEN TEAM In the Media

[Wicked Local Littleton reports](#) on how Littleton Public Schools received a US Department of Education Green Ribbon Schools award. Congratulations to Littleton Public Schools, one of 15 school districts across the country to be honored this year for innovative improvements to the health, wellness, and environmental impacts of their schools!

[Wicked Local Ipswich](#) reports on how students from Ipswich High School brought a school project about bans on Styrofoam and plastic bags to the town for a vote on May 10. Both bans passed at town meeting.

[CommonDreams](#) reports on how four high school students from Boston and Wellesley won a case against the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection for falling short of its timeline to reduce greenhouse gas emissions set in the 2008 Global Warming Solutions Act.

GREEN TEAM Spotlight

Students at **Dryden Veterans Memorial School** in Springfield have been busy gardening! Second and third graders planted four fruit trees, vegetables, and flowers. Third graders also learned how to use both an outdoor compost bin and a worm bin. All students are involved in caring for the school garden and learning about where their food comes from.



Students at Dryden Veterans Memorial School planting a peach tree.

Three schools in Greenfield started collecting food scraps in their cafeterias for composting. **Greenfield High School**, which also switched from disposable trays and utensils to washable ones, reduced cafeteria trash from 15 bags per day down to three! **The Discovery School at Four Corners** is diverting one ton of food scraps and liquids from the landfill each month. At **The Math and Science Academy at Green River**, 86% of kitchen and cafeteria waste is being composted. These successes are the initial results of a 3-year [Sustainable Materials Recovery grant](#) provided by MassDEP to the Town of Greenfield, with assistance from the [Franklin County Solid Waste Management District](#), through which all the Greenfield Schools will implement composting programs.



A full compost collection bin at the *Discovery School at Four Corners*.

Quinsigamond Elementary School in Worcester switched to plastic milk bottles in their cafeteria. Students empty the extra liquid from these bottles and recycle them. The school also held its third

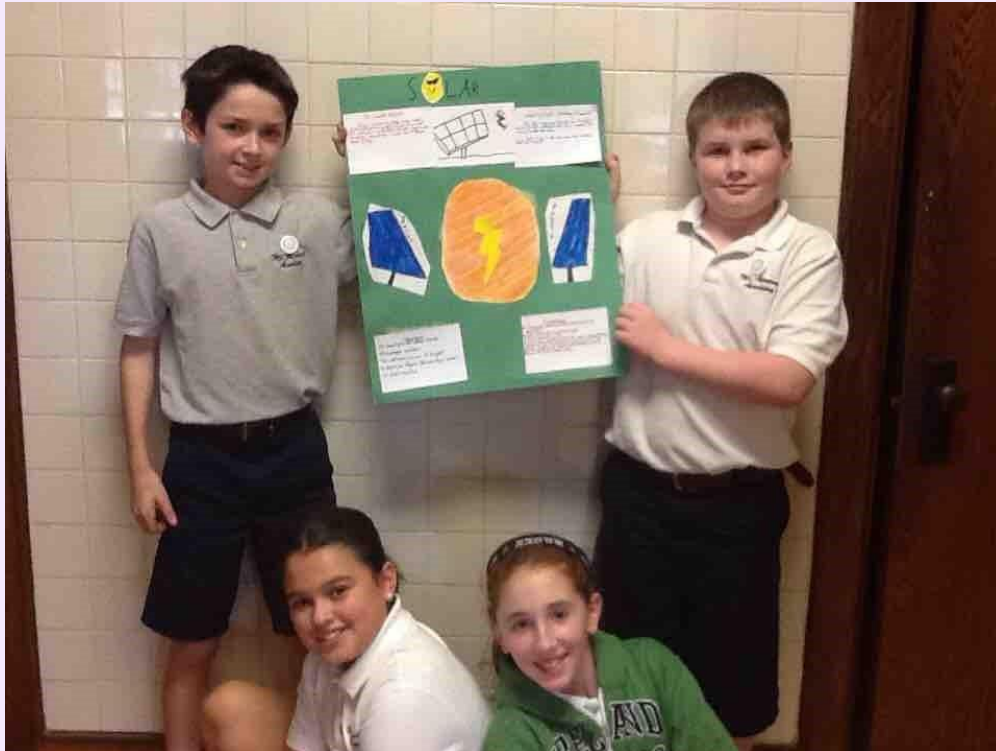
annual Recycled Art Contest, as well as its third annual electronics and metal recycling drive.



*Students at **Quinsigamond Elementary School** empty plastic milk bottles before recycling.*

Mount Alvernia Academy in Chestnut Hill has been learning about climate change, endangered species, and gardening. Climate change is discussed in 4th, 5th, and 6th grade classes whenever it

applies to a subject, such as energy, ecosystems, habitats, earth science, or weather. Fifth graders did a project where they compared renewable and non-renewable energy sources. Fourth graders researched endangered species, and the school recognized Endangered Species Day. The school also planted a butterfly garden and other flowers around the school.



Students at **Mount Alvernia Academy** present on energy sources.

THE GREEN TEAM Photo Gallery is Inspiring!

Check out the fantastic photos in [THE GREEN TEAM Photo Gallery!](#) And send us yours! In 2015-2016, we received photos from:

Agawam Junior High School, Agawam, Sandra Johnson
Bridgewater-Raynham Regional High School, Bridgewater, Jessica Lazarus
Greenfield Math and Science Academy, Greenfield, Laurie Boosahda
The Discovery School at Four Corners, Greenfield, Bharti Winston
Mount Alvernia Academy, Chestnut Hill, Maria Lyons
Hull High School, Hull, Sheila Blair
Marion E. Zeh Elementary School, Northborough, Selvi Oyola
Captain Samuel Brown School, Peabody, Diane Bugler

Hawlemont Regional School, Shelburne Falls, Jean Bruffee
Whately Elementary School, South Deerfield, Pete Crisafulli
Dennis-Yarmouth Regional High School, South Yarmouth, Abir Zaineh
Dryden Veterans Memorial School, Springfield, Jessica Burt
STEM Middle Academy, Springfield, Rick Haggerty
Innovation Academy Charter High School, Tyngsboro, Katherine Hinkle
Quinsigamond Elementary School, Worcester, Stephanie Syre-Hager

School Programs, Events, Competitions and Professional Development

June 6

[Urban Green School Awards Ceremony](#) from 5:30-8:30pm in Charlestown, MA.

June 15

Application deadline for MassDEP [Sustainable Materials Recovery Program \(SMRP\) Municipal Grants](#), which offer funding to cities, towns, and regional entities for recycling, composting, and reuse activities, including district-wide school recycling programs.

MassGreenCareers.org is currently [seeking coaches, exhibitors, and presenters](#) for the [Massachusetts Green Careers Conference](#) on Sept. 29, 2016, in Worcester.

Other Resources

[Massachusetts Agriculture in the Classroom](#) helps educators promote agricultural literacy so students understand where the foods and fibers they encounter every day come from. Specific resources include:

- [Mini-Grants](#) for agricultural education projects
- [Garden Guides](#) ranging from basics, like the Garden Start-Up Guide, through specific topics, such as Container Gardening and Using Cover Crops
- [Sage Teacher Mentor Program](#) for teachers starting or revitalizing a school garden or agriculture program

We wish you and your students a great end to the school year and a wonderful summer! Remember to water your compost bins before you leave for summer vacation!

We hope you will [register](#) for THE GREEN TEAM for the 2016-2017 school year and we look forward to welcoming you back in the fall!

Emily Fabel
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