

## June 2018 Newsletter

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*"We hope to be able to complete more of the GREEN TEAM activities next year! One of my main goals for the next school year is to set up and implement a composting program for our school. Thank you for*

*all*

*the great resources!"*

-Kelly Cronin, Teacher, Witchcraft Heights Elementary School, Salem

Hello GREEN TEAM Teachers!

Congratulations on all the wonderful environmental activities you and your students completed this year! Check out the new photos in the [GREEN TEAM Photo Gallery](#) and stories in the [GREEN TEAM Spotlight!](#)

We received fifty-nine Teacher Response Forms, describing an impressive array of activities across Massachusetts. Many schools are collecting textiles for donation and recycling, designing clothing and art from recyclables, separating food scraps in their cafeterias for composting, expanding recycling programs, building solar cars, and starting compost bins! Students are learning about climate change, energy sources, air quality, endangered species, reducing waste, and most importantly, that their actions make a positive difference in their school and community.

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 were selected and will

receive a recycling show, a concert, or garden supplies for their school. [Click here](#) for the complete list of all GREEN TEAM prize winners. Watch for the press release MassDEP will soon issue highlighting your accomplishments!

2017 - 2018 GREEN TEAM Grand Prize Winners				
School Name	Community	Teacher	Grade	GREEN TEAM Prize
Thompson Elementary School	Arlington	Elizabeth Rocco	K-5	Garden Supplies
John A. Bishop Elementary School	Arlington	Jennifer Davidson	K-3	Recycling Show
Joseph Lee School	Dorchester	Alice Daly	6-8	Recycling Show
Brookside Elementary School	Dracut	Denise Porcello	3	Garden Supplies
Dante Alighieri Montessori School	East Boston	Teresa Strong	K-5	Recycling Show
Agawam Junior High School	Feeding Hills	Sandee Johnson	7	Garden Supplies
Clifford M. Granger School	Feeding Hills	Tammy Rumplik	K-4	Garden Supplies
Monument Valley Regional Middle School	Great Barrington	Mary Stucklen	7-8	Recycling Show
Barnstable High School	Hyannis	Jon Watson	8-12	Garden Supplies
Kingston Elementary School	Kingston	Elizabeth McCartney	2	Recycling Show
Johnny Appleseed School	Leominster	Brigid Gilchrist	5	Garden Supplies
Bartlett Community Partnership School	Lowell	JoAnne Downing	PreK-8	Garden Supplies
Martinson Elementary School	Marshfield	Allie Smith	4	Garden Supplies
Greater New Bedford Vocational Tech. High School	New Bedford	Christopher Pires & Lawrence Carlesi	9-12	Garden Supplies
Captain Samuel Brown School	Peabody	Diane Bugler	K-5	Recycling Show
Rockport Middle School	Rockport	Robert Allia	6-12	Garden Supplies
Witchcraft Heights Elementary School	Salem	Kelly Cronin	4-5	Garden Supplies
The Grow School	Southbridge	Martha Burkett	K-12	Garden Supplies
Katharine Lee Bates Elementary School	Wellesley	Marybeth Martello	K-5	Earthtunes Concer



*GREEN TEAM staff cheerfully assemble prize packages.*

### **GREEN TEAM Spotlight**

On Earth Day, students from **Arlington Middle School** and **Robert Frost Middle School** in Lawrence participated in cleaning up a city park as part of Groundwork Lawrence and Comcast Cares Day. This was their first year as part of THE GREEN TEAM and they look forward to continuing and expanding their efforts next year!



*Students from Arlington Middle School and Robert Frost Middle School are proud of their work in cleaning up a park in town.*

The students at **John A. Bishop Elementary School** in Arlington learned about recycling best practices from the Arlington recycling coordinator and made posters to hang around the school to share their knowledge. They also planted a pollinator garden and educated the community about the importance of pollinator species.



*Students at John A. Bishop Elementary School plant their pollinator garden.*

Students at **Brackett Elementary School** in Arlington participated in an energy use scavenger hunt and toured the school's boiler room with the town's energy manager as they learned about energy savings. They also held a waste-free day and a green film festival, planted a pollinator garden, and collected more than 4,225 pounds of textiles. In addition, they learned about the important role trees play in ecosystems and created an amazing tree art project that was displayed at Arlington Town Hall!



*Brackett Elementary School students created this amazing art project about the valuable role trees play in ecosystems.*

Members of the Green Thumb Team at **Loker Elementary School** in Wayland led a ceremony for the planting of a tree donated by the graduating fifth grade class in honor of Arbor Day. They also used school-made compost to plant seedlings in their school garden!



*Members of the Green Thumb Team at Loker Elementary School weed the school garden and apply compost made at the school in preparation for the planting of seedlings.*

Check out the [GREEN TEAM Photo Gallery](#) for even more recent photos. Please email your photos to [recycle@thegreenteam.org](mailto:recycle@thegreenteam.org) to share them in the gallery and in upcoming newsletters.

### **GREEN TEAM in the Media**

*WickedLocal Arlington* reported on **Arlington Public Schools** [being named a 2018 U.S. Department of Education Green Ribbon School District Sustainability Awardee](#). This award recognizes school districts for reducing greenhouse gases, addressing the nutrition, fitness, mindfulness and overall health of students and staff, and teaching curricula that addresses environmental topics. Congratulations to the students and staff of Arlington Public Schools!

*The Springfield Republican* [reported on the successful early efforts](#) of the Green Team at **STEM Middle Academy** in Springfield. They have made great strides this year, including building a community garden, switching from Styrofoam to cardboard lunch trays, and establishing a compost system. In the process they have slashed lunchtime trash from 18 bags a day to just three!

**Gateway Regional High School** in Huntington [recently celebrated](#) more than 10 years of their Be Green recycling program. To commemorate the occasion, they invited founding members of the club back to the school to see the program's growth. One former student, Kathleen Ryan, has since become a teacher and brought some of her students to Gateway to learn about starting a program at their own school.

*The Worcester Telegram and Gazette* covered efforts **Shrewsbury High School** students are taking to encourage the town to [ban Styrofoam food containers](#) from the school district and other food service operations. Four high school juniors presented information to several town departments, including the School Committee, encouraging them to support the measure. More than two dozen Massachusetts cities and towns have joined communities nationwide in approving polystyrene regulations.

### **School Programs, Events, Competitions, and Professional Development**

Mark your calendars with these grant opportunities, workshops, conferences, and more!

**June 5** – [World Environment Day](#). A United Nations initiative to encourage awareness and appreciation for our environment. This year's theme is "Beat Plastic Pollution."

**June 13** – Deadline for the [Funds for Fuel Up to Play 60](#) Grant. Qualified K-12 schools can receive up to \$4,000 per year to jumpstart healthy changes focused on nutrition and physical activity. Schools must [enroll in Fuel Up to Play 60](#) to be eligible.

**June 13** – Deadline for [Sustainable Materials Recovery Program \(SMRP\) Municipal Grants](#). SMRP grant funding can be used by municipalities and school districts to improve local recycling, composting, reuse, and hazardous waste diversion programs, including district-wide school recycling and food waste diversion programs.

**June 18** – Application Deadline for the [Ocean Awareness Contest](#). Students aged 11-18 from around the world are invited to explore, express, and advocate for issues related to climate change and our oceans through creative visual art, poetry, prose, film, or music projects.

**June 18-24** – [National Pollinator Week](#) is a celebration of valuable species of pollinators including bees,

birds, butterflies, and more. The website offers resources to help support these creatures and the critical role they play in our lives. Visit the Pollinator Partnership's [website](#) to learn about events happening in your area, or add your event to the nationwide map!

**June 27** – Northeast Resource Recovery Association (NRRA) [Webinar: Indoor Air Quality and Green Cleaning](#). This workshop explores indoor air quality hazards for school building occupants such as cleaning chemicals, varnishes, maintenance issues, and improper storage of art/science/voc tech chemicals and discusses how green cleaning practices can significantly improve school health.

**June 28** – Massachusetts Agriculture in the Classroom presents [“Family-Owned Dairy Farms – the History, the Satisfaction, and the Challenges.”](#) Learn about what it is like to grow up on a dairy farm, what careers are available, and whether you can incorporate dairy lessons into your curriculum.

**July 8-21** – [Sustainable Development & Social Entrepreneurship Session](#) at the Yale Young Global Scholars Program. This program is focused on exploring innovative solutions to the greatest challenges facing the international community today, and aims to prepare students to tackle problems related to particular areas of interest, including global health, international development, environmental sustainability, and gender equality.

**July 9-13** – Museum Institute for Teaching Science (MITS) [Summer Professional Development Institute](#) for the Cape Cod Region (middle and high school educators), MetroWest Region (for grades 3-8 educators), Berkshire Region (for grades 3-8 educators), and Central Region (for grades 3-8 educators).

**July 16-20** – Museum Institute for Teaching Science [Summer Professional Development Institute](#) for the North Shore Region (for grades 3-8 educators) and Southeast Region (for grades 3-8 educators).

**July 17** – Massachusetts Agriculture in the Classroom presents [“Growing for Others and Improving Your Garden.”](#) Learn about field trip opportunities for your class, hands-on gardening activities, and food issues and hunger in Massachusetts.

### **Other Resources**

The National Dairy Association and the NFL Fuel Up to Play 60 [Food: Waste Less and Enjoy! Make it Happen Checklist](#) offers several helpful tips about how to tackle food waste in your school. It offers advice and outlines key steps students and teachers can take to help achieve their goals.

MassRecycle's [Great Locker Greenout Toolkit](#) offers suggestions for how to organize a locker



“greenout” that maximizes reuse and recycling and minimizes trash. Don’t forget to make a waste reduction plan as you prepare for the end of the school year!

We wish you and your students a great end to the school year and a wonderful summer. We hope you register again for THE GREEN TEAM when you return in the fall!

Don’t forget to water your compost bins before you leave for summer vacation!

**Emily Fabel**

**GREEN TEAM Program Administrator**

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You are receiving this e-mail because you are part of The GREEN TEAM.

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