

July 2018 Newsletter

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"When you support our students, they feel proud of their actions to help their planet. It is important that outside agencies and not just teachers validate the importance of recycling. THE GREEN TEAM does this every year. Thank you again for your ongoing support of our students!"

- Martha Burkett, Teacher, The Grow School, Southbridge

Hello GREEN TEAM Teachers!

Now that it's summer, we have more time to reflect on the 2017-2018 school year.

We have posted the full list of [GREEN TEAM activities accomplished at schools](#) (xls) across the state during the past year. This list is inspiring, and may give you some ideas for next year!

The MassDEP also recently issued [a press release about the 2017-2018 GREEN TEAM prize winners](#).

This press release is generally popular with local newspapers, who write stories highlighting GREEN TEAM participants. Please send us links to any media coverage your school receives, so we can share it in **THE GREEN TEAM in the Media** section of this newsletter, and on [our website](#).

THE GREEN TEAM website now features an updated [map of participating schools](#).

We recently posted [a revised table](#) aligning GREEN TEAM activities with the 2017 Massachusetts

Curriculum Framework for Mathematics. Numerous GREEN TEAM [lessons and activities](#) align with these standards across many grades, including:

- Slash Trash
- Waste-Free Day
- Set up School Recycling Program
- Rummage Sale/Drive Collecting Recyclables
- Climate Change Scorecard
- Composting
- Light Bulb Lesson

[Registration for THE GREEN TEAM for the 2018-2019 school year is now open!](#) Remember, your registration from 2017-2018 does not carry over to the new school year, so please register now to stay up to date on upcoming events, request equipment, keep us updated on the work you and your students are doing, and receive recognition for it!

GREEN TEAM Spotlight

This year, students at **Brookside Elementary School** in Dracut increased lunchtime recycling and began collecting tin foil from lunches into a giant ball to raise awareness of recycling. As a result of this and their other activities, recycling has now become second nature!



Brookside Elementary School students pose with their impressive ball of tin foil collected from lunches.

At **Captain Samuel Brown Elementary School** in Peabody, students created posters for the annual Peabody GreenFest, collected textiles, maintained a school garden and composting system, and worked on environmental community service projects. What a busy year!



Students from Captain Samuel Brown School at the 2018 Peabody GreenFest.

The Green Team at **John A. Bishop Elementary School** in Arlington worked hard this year, and earned a recycling and conservation magic show performed by Peter O'Malley from THE GREEN TEAM. The students and staff loved the show!



Students and staff at John A. Bishop Elementary enjoyed a recycling and conservation magic show with Peter O'Malley.

Lenox Memorial Middle School and High School in Lenox switched from disposable silverware to reusable metal silverware in honor of Earth Day. This was the culmination of years of planning, problem solving, and relationship building by the school's environmental club, Evergreen. Congratulations on making the switch!

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

GREEN TEAM in the Media

The [Greenfield Recorder](#) recounted a composting tour at the **Academy of Early Learning** and described other recycling and composting efforts happening in the **Greenfield Public Schools**. The district used a \$30,000 Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection School Recycling Assistance grant to establish successful cafeteria and kitchen compost programs, with assistance from Amy Donovan of the Franklin County Solid Waste Management District. As a result, each school has slashed trash by 75-80%! They have also participated in THE GREEN TEAM, receiving lessons, activities, and supplies to help teachers bring environmental education into the classroom. Check out [THE GREEN TEAM Source Separation Instructional Video](#) which features the successful cafeteria waste diversion program at Greenfield Public Schools

The *Sentinel & Enterprise News* described how [two local GREEN TEAM schools](#) and a local educator

were honored as part of the 24th Annual Secretary's Awards for [Excellence in Energy and Environmental Education](#). Congratulations to **Oakmont Regional High School** in Ashburnham, **Memorial Middle School** in Fitchburg, and Lunenburg resident and science educator Sarah Cammer, PhD! You can read the full list of honorees [here](#).

[Massachusetts Envirothon](#) announced the winners of the [31st Annual Envirothon](#), held on May 18. This annual competition brings teams from schools across the state together to demonstrate their knowledge of Massachusetts' natural environment. Congratulations to **Newton North High School**, **Lexington High School**, and **Pioneer Valley Regional High School in Northfield**, who took the first, second, and third places overall, and to all of the schools that competed!

School Programs, Events, Competitions, and Professional Development

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

July 8-21 – Sustainable Development and Social Entrepreneurship Session at [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 9-12 – [CELFS Summer Institute](#): Education for Sustainability. This program is an intensive four-day workshop that enables teachers to integrate the concepts of sustainability into their existing curricula.

July 9-13 – Museum Institute for Teaching Science [Summer Professional Development Institutes](#). Cape Cod Region (for 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 12 – [The Great Exchange Furniture Event](#). The [Devens Eco-Efficiency Center](#) promotes reuse by collecting and redistributing various school, office, safety, and arts and crafts supplies and furniture to schools, small businesses, and municipalities at low cost. This particular event is focused on furniture, and will see a variety of classroom furniture offered at significantly discounted prices. Register [here](#).

July 16-20 – Museum Institute for Teaching Science [Summer Professional Development Institutes](#). 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.

July 17-26 – South Shore Natural Science Center [2018 Climate Change Workshop](#). This eight-day workshop will introduce third-to-fifth grade teachers to climate change projects and programs they can use in the classroom. Space is limited, so [apply](#) now!

August 22-23 – [Summer Institute for Teachers](#) at Harvard Forest. The Harvard Forest offers a forest ecology training institute for teachers of grades 2-12 to learn how to implement field studies of local ecosystems in their schoolyards. Topics include [Woolly Bully and the Hemlock Trees](#), [Buds, Leaves, and Global Warming](#), and [Our Changing Forests](#).

September 1 – Deadline for [Massachusetts Agriculture in the Classroom Mini-Grant](#) applications. Massachusetts Agriculture in the Classroom awards mini-grants up to \$1,500 to Massachusetts educators, after-school programs, farms working with schools, and youth gardening organizations for agriculturally-based educational projects. Click [here](#) to apply.

September 1 – Deadline for [Toshiba America Foundation grants](#). The Toshiba America Foundation awards grants to educators who are passionate about making mathematics and science more engaging for their students. This deadline is for educators of grades 6-12, and offers grants up to \$5,000. Click [here](#) to learn more and apply.

September 30 – Deadline to apply for [Project Learning Tree's Greenworks! Grants](#). Project Learning Tree offers grants up to \$1,000 to schools and youth organizations for environmental service-learning projects that link classroom learning to the real world.

October 1 – Deadline for [Toshiba America Foundation grants](#). The Toshiba America Foundation awards grants to educators who are passionate about making mathematics and science more engaging for their students. This deadline is for educators of grades K-5, and offers grants up to \$1,000. Click [here](#) to learn more and apply.

We look forward to your return for the 2018-2019 school year. [It's never too early to register!](#)

Have a lovely summer vacation!

Emily Fabel
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