

Green Generation News

Message from our Editors

Dear readers,

We are thrilled to bring to you the first edition of **Generation Green News**, School District No. 43's first district-wide, student-run newsletter. **Generation Green News** was founded in the summer of 2011 by Port Moody Secondary School student Victoria Wee, who was soon joined by Gleneagle student Jennifer Allott. Together with students across the school district, we present this resource with pieces on school environmental initiatives, current sustainability topics, and opportunities for students to get involved.

A new edition will be published every two months. Whether you are a student, teacher, or administrator, we would love to hear about green happenings in your school and circles, as well as your opinions on sustainability issues. Please direct all photos and articles (suggested 100-400 word count) to generationgreennews@sd43.bc.ca. All materials must be received by January 23, 2012 for February's edition.

In the sustainability spirit,

Victoria Wee and Jennifer Allott
Editors-in-Chief
Generation Green News



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Dr. Charles Best Student is Sailing South

BY SELIN JESSA

This December, I will be travelling to Antarctica.

I'm still wrapping my head around the idea that I'm going all the way to the South Pole as a participant on an environmental youth expedition with *Students on Ice*. Even a few weeks after learning about the trip, the shock on someone's face when I explain where I'm going is always echoed in my own. The expedition will bring together a diverse, passionate group of students and leaders from various fields to explore the Patagonian region of the Andes, cross the Drake Passage, and disembark on various shores of the Antarctic Peninsula to witness climate change for ourselves.

Over the past couple years, as the need for environmental action grows, I've become increasingly interested in the world's progress towards sustainability and the role of youth in advocating for environmental justice. I applied for the expedition, and a month later, I'm learning as much as I can about Antarctica's relationship to the rest of the world in preparation for my trip.

I think this trip will be a catalyst – an expedition that will leave me with a deep understanding of why it's so important to preserve the Polar Regions and the Earth. Perhaps one of the reasons I'm most excited to take part on this expedition is the potential for the participants to use our experience to raise awareness about climate change. When I return in 2012, I hope to be sharing my story with students around the District and beyond, and collaborating with existing youth environmental groups to work on sustainability initiatives.

Antarctica holds the promise of a natural environment mostly untouched by human existence – otherworldly, peaceful and *awesome* in the truest sense of the word. I'm ready to be shocked to my core with the reality of climate change, and then filled back up with the hope that there *are* solutions and that *we can* make a difference. I know that our generation can and will fundamentally influence the way our societies work so that we live in harmony with each other and the Earth. I'm so proud to be part of that movement.



Selin Jessa (@selinjessa) is an insatiably curious and passionate Grade 11 student at Dr. Charles Best Secondary. She will be blogging about her Antarctic experience at selinjessa.tumblr.com. Follow Selin's journey and learn more about the expedition at www.studentsonice.com/antarctic2011.

School News

Harbour View Elementary

Congratulations to School District No. 43's very own Harbour View Elementary, winner of the 2011 BC Green Games and the Elementary Viewer's Choice Award with the Harbour View Garden Project. "Children can help to grow a garden ... a garden can definitely help to grow our children." Visit www.bcgreengames.ca to browse all BC Green Games entries from 2009, 2010, and 2011.



Port Moody Secondary

Port Moody Secondary School's Grad Committee recently collected \$860's worth of recyclable bottles in just six hours. Congratulations Grad 2012!



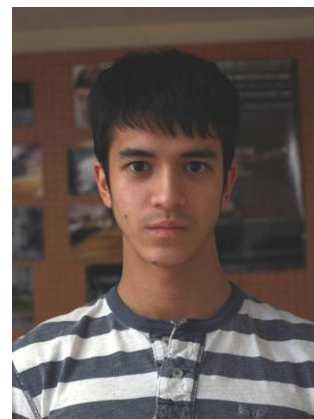
The Youth Climate Report

In November 2011, a few students from School District No 43 took part in the Youth Climate Report, an international project based in Toronto and partnered with the United Nations Environment Programme. The Youth Climate Report is a platform for young people to interview climate researchers and highlight the realities of climate change, and for researchers to bring their findings to the attention of international negotiators and youth. Video segments of selected interviews were screened for delegates at the United Nations COP 17 climate conference in Durban, South Africa on December 2, 2011. Brandon Hillier, a grade 12 student at Port Moody Secondary School, was one of the incredible youth around the world to have his interview screened.

Brandon shares his experience:

"I am not a journalist, nor have I ever really considered it as a viable career path for myself. But the Youth Climate Report changed that. After having the opportunity to act as a journalist, I discovered that it is not only quite interesting, but also fun. The knowledge I gained was doubtlessly the best part; I learned facts about where I lived that I simply was not aware of prior to this interview."

Taking part in the Youth Climate Report offers a very unique opportunity to experience something outside of most individuals' comfort zone. If you aspire to be a journalist, I can say with confidence that participating is a great way to get practical experience. The Youth Climate Report represents a relevant and global cause."



For more information on the Youth Climate Report, check out www.youthclimatereport.org and Twitter @YCRTV

Raising Awareness with Cameras and Cookies

How much do you think you know about the effects of the waste you produce? Gleneagle's Green Team has set out to determine how knowledgeable our student's really are. On December 1st and 2nd, our team travelled around the school with cookies, cameras, and Q & A sheets in hand, to question students in return for a tasty treat. It caught on, and soon students were being shocked by the answers we gave them, or made happy by the realization that they were right! To add to the impact, we placed eye-catching posters around the school and decorated a pillar in the foyer to symbolize a deceased tree. Our Green Team made itself known and prepared the student body for our upcoming recycling program.

By: Jennifer Allott, Gleneagle Secondary, Grade 10

Turning Halloween into Hallogreen

Last year members of the Dr. Charles Best Green Team came together. This year, the team led by Geneve Macrae, has really kicked off. Apart from recycling, the Green Team is in charge of every environmental movement in the school. Because of October's events, the Green Team decided to be proactive about the amount of waste that was created from post Halloween festivities, and therefore began a candy-wrapper recycling project. Two weeks before the 31st there were posters strung on the wall and announcements blared on the P.A., and lo and behold by Halloween there were boxes of candy wrappers in front of the school. This successful campaign has now raised the bar in the expectations that the student body has of the Green Team; we can't wait to see what else they'll come up with next.

By: Andrea Ceron, Dr. Charles Best Secondary, Grade 11

Canada, the Kyoto Protocol, and COP17

Shhh. Can you hear that? Hear the sound of history being written.

Thousands of negotiators, campaigners and members of civil society have travelled the world over to gather in Durban, South Africa for the annual Conference of Parties (COP), the most significant international climate conference to occur each year. This year marks the 17th Conference of Parties, most commonly, COP17.

To realize the significance of this year's Conference of Parties, one would have to dig back into the historical grounding of the conferences. The COPs began when the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) was created at the United Nations Earth Summit nineteen short years ago in Rio de Janeiro, 1992. Since then, the COPs have become the crucial global mechanism to assess progress in solving the climate crisis, and to negotiate a legally binding, fair global commitment for countries to lower their greenhouse gas emissions. Next year, 2012, marks the twentieth year anniversary of the UN Earth Summit, the birthing ground of the COPs. Next year, 2012, also marks the expiry date of the Kyoto Protocol – the only international agreement with binding targets for the reduction of greenhouse emissions in developed countries.

As I write, negotiators are determining whether to extend the commitment period of Kyoto after it expires, to adopt more ambitious emissions reduction targets ... or to scrap Kyoto entirely.

On the very first day of the United Nations COP17, Canadian environment minister Peter Kent confirmed that Canada would not extend its Kyoto commitment when it expires next year.,

Publicly and vociferously refusing to re-sign Kyoto at the beginning of a conference held to collaborate on that very item is not quite the open-minded stance the world needs – particularly not the parts of the world experiencing extreme drought, floods, or abnormally thin harvests credited to global climate change. You might imagine the backlash Canada received worldwide.

While the Conference still has a ways to run before ending on December 9, 2011, I have serious doubts that Canadian negotiators will do a 180-degree about-turn from their current backwards stance in time to negotiate a global, legally binding and ambitious scheme for cutting emissions.

If Canada does not emerge a leader for sustainability this winter at COP17, we have one chance, perhaps our last one, perhaps the most significant one ever, at the United Nations Earth Summit 2012 in June.

Let's show the world we still have what it takes to storm the global stage for a sustainable future.

Victoria Wee is a graduate of Port Moody Secondary School's Class of 2011 and the founder of Generation Green News.

School News

Baker Drive Elementary

This year, over 50 classes from Baker Drive, F.W. Howay, Lord Baden-Powell, Moody, Ranch Park, Rochester and Maillard Middle participated in the **Litterless Lunch Week Challenge** during Waste Reduction week. Ms. Mackay's kindergarten-grade 1 class from Baker Park Elementary is this year's winner! Congratulations on a 100% litter-free week.



École Mary Hill Elementary

On December 1, 2011 Ms. Toal's grade 3-4 class enjoyed a classroom visit from the Jane Goodall Institute of Canada's Roots & Shoots programme. Students shared their favourite animals and learned about primates and chimpanzees – and how students can help protect them.

What's happening at *your* school? Send us an email at generationgreennews@sd43.bc.ca



Middle schools all over the district are taking the initiative to become zero waste schools. Maple Creek, Kwayhquitlam, and Maillard all have structures in each classroom that enable to efficient and effective sorting of what we would normally just throw into a garbage can. Instead, the students put their waste into different bins in towers that have sections for materials such as hard plastic, soft plastic, Styrofoam, paper towels, food waste, paper, cardboard, refundables, and/or foil-covered paper or plastic. By incorporating these structures into their school environment, they have greatly reduced the waste they produce. Let all schools in the district follow suit! Also, if you would like to explore ways you can recycle items not collected by the city, explore www.pacificmobiledepots.com.

By: Jennifer Allott, Gleneagle Secondary, Grade 10

School News

Moody Middle

Moody Middle students Mehek Hussalin, Amrita Monar, Abby Holden, and Brynn Bishop “strongly believe in giving back to our world.” The school’s recycling group travels around the school to collect plastic bottles. As Moody’s representatives on SD43’s Student Leadership Council say: It only takes one.

Citadel Middle

Each year at Citadel Middle, Mr. Exley’s class volunteers to collect and sort recycling. Students draw and color pictures to put around the school together with more bins. If a student is spotted recycling a number of times, they receive a prize!

Minnekhada Middle

Minnekhada Middle’s student Green Team is a veritable beehive of fantastic green ideas to implement in the school, with ideas ranging from starting a green compost bin and paper recycling in the hallways, to holding bottles drives and starting a concession to fundraise.



Here in the woods we’ve been keeping it green! Our recycling club was quick to get back on top of things. Now, this year we have a new addition to our classes: the Environment Independently Directed Studies class. Over the course of the year we have a few projects and events that we need to accomplish; what we do, how, when, with whom is directed by our interests. Our teacher, Mrs. Valois, steps in every now and then with brief lessons on the environment and to see how we are doing. Right now we are working on projects to educate our fellow Kodiak’s about the environment and the importance of recycling in partnership. Come visit Heritage to take a look at our multiple recycling posters plastered around the school. We are looking forward to a great year with this successful new class!



By: Becky Curran, Heritage Woods Secondary

Have you heard about Youth 4 Action? It’s a program run by Metro Vancouver that brings together youth from across the region to share ideas and projects, and provides resources, support, and event opportunities such as clinics and symposiums. Most recently, I attended the Sustainable Happiness and Sustainable Schools Symposium at Creekside Community Centre. The event was on October 20th 2011, and attracted about 80 people. It was well organized and run mostly by students, which produced a comfortable environment in which people felt free to contribute to the conversation. The event was tailored towards each student’s interests, with portions of the evening spent brainstorming and creatively discussing the pros and cons of our environmental crusades. Overall the night was a success, complete with a speech by Aliya Dossa, a grade 12 student from Burnaby North Secondary, and a meal from the Rocky Mountain Flatbread Company. Keep on the lookout for upcoming events and resources at www.metrovancouver.org/region/Youth4Action.



By: Jennifer Allott, Gleneagle Secondary, Grade 10

Message from District Principal of Energy and Sustainability

Hear ye, hear ye!



Dave Sands

Green greetings to everyone! My name is Dave Sands and I am the Principal of Energy and Sustainability for the Coquitlam School District. I took over this position in July 2011 from Mark Clay who had assumed this role over the past three years. I have had a steep learning curve these first five months, but I am enjoying every minute of it. My portfolio includes working with the Maintenance and Facilities departments to ensure our buildings are running at optimal energy efficiency and that all new building projects meet strict energy efficient and environmental guidelines. Further, I work with schools to support Green initiatives involving waste management, recycling, and environmental awareness. In doing so, I do my best to support educators and students alike to make a difference in our schools, district, community and the environment as a whole.

Aside from introducing myself here, I try to stay connected with students, educators and the community through a District email, a [Public Sharepoint website](#), a [GreenSD43 Facebook page](#), and [@greensd43](#) on Twitter. Through these social media I report events, share resources, and announce Green News stories that are positive and that make an impact on our Carbon Footprint. Please feel free to visit, bookmark these sites, and share them with others.

As I acclimatize to my role as an Energy Manager this year, I hope to bring more awareness to educators and students around the impact we have on our environment and the consequences of it. In addition, I see my role as supporting and empowering individuals to take leadership around environmental initiatives leading to sustainable behaviour change.

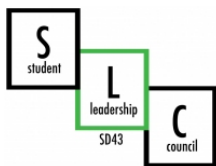
I am pleased to support this first edition of Green Generation News. This electronic newsletter is an incredible tool for students and educators to share their work and resources. I must acknowledge Victoria Wee and Jennifer Allott, editors of this publication, for their diligence and commitment to this project. They have taken great strides to ensure its creation, support, and capacity to be sustainable over time. This edition is the first of many! I look forward to future articles and sharing around the actions of young people in 'Green' ways.

Please feel free to email me at dsands@sd43.bc.ca if you have any questions around the Coquitlam School District's Energy use or how I can best support you in your Green projects.

Dave Sands



Upcoming Events, Grants, and Other Opportunities



School District No. 43 Student Leadership Council.

SD43's Student Leadership Council (SLC) is composed of student representatives from middle schools and high school across the district. As the official representative body of students at the district-level, SLC is an incredible channel for student voice. SLC representatives meet once a month on a Tuesday afternoon from 12:00 – 3:00 pm. If you are interested in joining SLC, check with your principal or vice-principal for information and opportunities for next year's council.



Toyota Evergreen School Ground Greening Grants – *Deadline: March 16, 2012.*

Interested in creating or maintaining a school garden? Toyota Evergreen Learning Grounds is accepting applications now for grants. Schools can receive \$500 - \$3,500 and daycares, \$500 – \$2,000. Eligible expenses include: native plant species; heritage berries, vegetable seeds and plants; and tools, materials and professional services (such as a native plant or design professional or a professional educator). See [website](#) for full eligibility rules, downloadable application, and proposal writing tips.

2012 Toyota Earth Day Scholarships – *Deadline: January 31, 2012.*

Toyota Canada in partnership with Earth Day Canada is once again granting 20 scholarships of \$5,000 each to be applied toward tuition, books, room and board, and other educational expenses for the first-year of post-secondary full-time study in Canada. A national winner, selected from the 20 selected, will also receive the Toyota Earth Day Scholarship National Award and a Panasonic notebook computer at the National Award Ceremony. Successful applicants should demonstrate commitment to and involvement in community environmental issues in addition to academic achievement, leadership and other criteria. See full eligibility and selection details on the [scholarship website](#).



Winter Watershed Snowshoe Tour – *December 10, 2011 or January 14, 2012.*

Travel up to Mt. Seymour on a Saturday afternoon for two fun and educational hours of snowshoeing to learn about local ecology, the winter adaptation patterns of animals, and the importance of watershed conservation in connection with our regional water supply. Only 18+ though! Please register early for a minimal cost trip of \$18 with own snowshoes or \$25.00 including snowshoe rental. Events are organized by Metro Vancouver in partnership with Mt. Seymour Resorts. See [Metro Vancouver calendar](#) for more information and registration steps.



Metro Vancouver Youth 4 Action Symposium – *December 15, 2011.*

Metro Vancouver's Youth 4 Action team is hosting a Healthy Planet Zero Waste Symposium on the evening of December 15th at Vancouver Public Library. Sign up for a night of sharing success stories and learning about new ways to take action! Check out the [Youth 4 Action website](#).



Questions or comments?

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What's happening at *your* school?

Send us articles and photos at
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