

Monday, 10.31.11

Dear District & Community--

Last week I had the opportunity to visit CRLS teacher Barbara Dorritie's honors biology classes. I was invited to listen to climate change presentations given by her students. During my visit, I felt moved and inspired as I listened to students talk in detail about our planet, new science and technology solutions to climate change, and what it means to work together as a community to find sustainable solutions now and in the future.

I was highly impressed by the amount of dedication, time, and passion that Ms. Dorritie's students put into their projects, and I know that this kind of teaching and learning is happening across the district and in many classrooms. In my role as sustainability manager, it feels valuable to experience the connection between sustainability education that is done in our classrooms, and the sustainability work that I'm carrying out on an operational level.

More information about these student presentations will be available on our district sustainability website later this week. I encourage other teachers to contact me if you would like to share environmental/sustainability classwork on our CGSI website, as well. Thank you.

Please find our green **Tip of the Week**, and **PFEWG™ News/Resources** below. PFEWG™ is a model for sustainability that we use to implement the Cambridge Green Schools Initiative (CGSI). It covers the categories of **Products, Food, Energy, Waste, and Greenspace**.

- Tip of the Week: *Invest in a re-usable mug.* **Why?** Because this action will save countless number of disposable cups, and lowers energy use.
- Products: *"ExCL: Extras for Creative Learning."* This recycled-products center is a great resource for teachers. They just re-opened at a new location: 20 Wheeler St, Lynn, MA, 01901. <http://www.exclrecycles.org/>.
- Food: *"Slow Food USA."* Click here to read more about Slow Food USA, providing resources on sustainability, food, and community benefits: <http://www.slowfoodusa.org/>.
- Energy: *"Saving Energy."* While we have several energy-efficiency projects completed and underway, your help conserving energy makes a big difference too. Doing even 1 of the 3 suggestions makes a positive impact. --Use stairs instead of elevators --Turn off lab equipment or smartboards when not in use --Unplug appliances when not in use.
- Waste: *"Opt out of Phone-book."* Sign up by November 1 to opt out of receiving the next phone book. Click here: <https://cambridge.catalogchoice.org>. Please share this with your school families.
- Greenspace: *"Fresh Pond Reservation."* Fresh Pond Reservation, located at 250 Fresh Pond Parkway in Cambridge, is a wonderful outdoor & nature resource center for the community and schools. Visit Fresh Pond's website to learn more about opportunities & fun activities at Fresh Pond and it's Maynard Ecology Center for you and your students! <http://friendsoffreshpond.org/>.

Have a great week. -Kristen