

Monday, 3/7/11

Dear Principals, Custodians, Teachers, Staff, Students, and Administration--

Hello, I hope you had a nice weekend. Below, please find our green Tip of the Week, a Carbon Footprint Calculator, an Energy Efficiency Update, news about a free public paper shredding event, and an application link for the 2011 Massachusetts Awards for Excellence in Energy & Environmental Education (deadline March 28th) that honors teachers and students.

Thanks for taking the time to read.

- Tip of the Week: *Use a stainless steel or re-usable canteen for water.* Why? ...Because for every 6 plastic water bottles used, only 1 makes it to the recycling bin. Americans add 29 billion water bottles a year, which uses 17 million barrels of crude oil to be manufactured. (source: National Geographic Kids) <http://kids.nationalgeographic.com/kids/stories/spacescience/water-bottle-pollution/>
- Energy Efficiency Update: *Thank you for your continued efforts to reduce energy use across the district.* This month I am working with two 6th grade classes at Graham & Parks who are learning about energy and are curious to know how much electricity their school is using, and how to read and interpret this data. They are enthusiastic about lowering energy use for Graham & Parks! Part of my job involves using new software and inputting data to record and analyze energy use for each of our schools and school administrative buildings. As we draw closer to the completion of a sustainability website, and to launching our green schools initiative with specific energy recommendations for each school, I will be sharing this data with you and posting it online to help us track our progress.
- Carbon Footprint Calculator: *Calculate your individual carbon footprint.* This can also be used among students and shared with classes. From the Nature Conservancy, check out this educational link for calculating your carbon footprint: <http://www.nature.org/initiatives/climatechange/calculator/>
- Free Public Shredding: On Saturday, March 12th, at the Central Square Post Office (770 Mass. Ave) from 11am-2pm, local officials will help residents safely dispose of unwanted documents and records at a free public shredding event.
- Awards for Excellence in E&EE: This spring, Secretary of Energy and Environmental Affairs (EEA) Richard K. Sullivan Jr. will honor Massachusetts teachers and students who are involved in school-based programs, projects, and clubs that promote environment and energy education. Deadline March 28th. Click this link for a summary and application. [http://www.mass.gov/?pageID=eoeepressrelease&L=5&L0=Home&L1=Grants+%26+Technical+Assistance&L2=Guidance+%26+Technical+Assistance&L3=Agencies+and+Divisions&L4=Department+of+Energy+Resources+\(DOER\)&sid=Eoeea&b=pressrelease&f=110113_pr_awards_deadline&csid=Eoeea](http://www.mass.gov/?pageID=eoeepressrelease&L=5&L0=Home&L1=Grants+%26+Technical+Assistance&L2=Guidance+%26+Technical+Assistance&L3=Agencies+and+Divisions&L4=Department+of+Energy+Resources+(DOER)&sid=Eoeea&b=pressrelease&f=110113_pr_awards_deadline&csid=Eoeea)

Have a great week. -Kristen