

Monday, 4/11/11

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

Hello, I hope you're having a good day. Below, please find our green Tip of the Week, a Teacher's Resource, Sustainable Transportation Reimbursement, a Recycling Update, and a Composting Update.

Thanks for taking the time to read.

- Tip of the Week: Check "print preview" before printing. Why? Because checking allows you to notice errors and make adjustments, for example, allowing you to print double-sided, decrease font size, or narrow your margins. This saves energy, paper, and ink in the long-run.
- Teacher's Resource: Hello Teachers--you may be interested in *ExCL, Extras for Creative Learning*. This Boston non-profit collects excess inventory and outdated stock from businesses and "upcycles" it to teachers and families for no or low cost. The re-used materials offer unlimited creative opportunities for class projects and learning.
<http://www.exclrecycles.org/about.html>
- Sustainable Transportation Reimbursement: *Are you an employer using public transportation/MBTA to get to work?* If so, you may be eligible for reimbursement for going green. Any non-union employee working in a regular, budgeted position of 20 or more hours per week is eligible. Other employees are eligible based on their collective bargaining agreements. See attached form for reimbursement. Also, the next Walk/Ride Days is Friday, April 29th.
- Recycling Update: *RecycleCraze Rockin' Recycler's Nomination Form click here:*
<http://www.cambridgema.gov/theworks/ourservices/recyclingandtrash/aboutrecycling/Schools/~media/Files/publicworksdepartment/recyclingandrubbish/PDFs/2011%20Rockin%20Recyclers%20Award.ashx>. *To visit the DPW's RecycleCraze homepage click here:*
<http://www.cambridgema.gov/theworks/ourservices/recyclingandtrash/aboutrecycling/Schools/RecycleCraze.aspx>
- Composting Update: *Meryl Brott, Recycling Manager at DPW, and Kristen are working with schools to establish composting programs.* Several more schools have expressed great interest and begun meeting to discuss composting in just the past few weeks! This is great news.
 - If your school is interested in composting, too, e-mail Meryl Brott at mbrott@cambridgema.gov or kvonhoffmann@cpsd.us.
 - The King Open, the 9th Grade Campus, and the Graham & Parks schools are the first Cambridge schools to begin composting their lunch leftovers. From September to February, these schools have composted over 14,500 pounds and saved more than 14,500 lbs of CO₂. That's equal to the weight of 1.75 elephants. Well done!
 - The Graham & Parks School started their composting program this past November. Will your school be next? Lunchroom composting can be launched in only six weeks. Leadership from the principal or assistant principal is essential. A committee including the principal, senior custodian, and lead teacher meets with Meryl from the DPW or Kristen from CPS. Much of the initial leg work is done by the DPW, and then after the program is well underway, schools must take ownership of the program going forward.

- Read about the benefits of composting lunch leftovers instead of sending them to the landfill here: <http://www.epa.gov/osw/conservation/rrr/composting/benefits.htm>
- Please see attached PDF for more information about lunchroom composting.

Have a great week. -Kristen