



# Sustainability Liaisons Program Accomplishments 2018-2019



Arlington  
Public  
Schools



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# Program Overview

- ☛ 2018-2019 was the 3<sup>rd</sup> year of the sustainability liaison program.
- ☛ The number of schools with liaisons increased from 15 to 18.
- ☛ 17 Waste and Recycling Site Assessments were conducted.
- ☛ Every school implemented waste & recycling themed projects.
- ☛ More than half the liaison projects reached at least 25 students directly and the whole school indirectly through peer-to-peer education and whole-school awareness or participation.





# Participating Schools and Liaisons

## **Arlington Career Center**

Rosemary Donaldson & Millie Rosario

## **Arlington Community High School**

Sharon Ruggieri & Elizabeth Minihan

## **Ashlawn Elementary School**

Alison Sheahan

## **Arlington Traditional School**

Monica Hirschberg

## **Barrett Elementary School**

Cara Doherty

## **Campbell Elementary School**

Jessica Berg

## **Claremont Elementary School**

Aracely Vance

## **Discovery Elementary School**

Maria Burke

## **Glebe Elementary School**

Toni Wexler

## **Patrick Henry Elementary School**

Susan Spranger

## **Jamestown Elementary School**

Sheri Sharwarko

## **Jefferson Middle School**

Kaila Bell

## **Long Branch Elementary School**

Greg D'addario

## **Nottingham Elementary School**

Sarah Wysocki

## **Oakridge Elementary School**

Sean Jones

## **Tuckahoe Elementary School**

Margaret Egan

## **Wakefield High School**

Sean Tracy

## **Yorktown High School**

Ana Ratcliffe





# Liaison Projects Overview



- Each school participated in at least one waste-related project. Some schools added other sustainability-related projects.
  - 6 projects included peer-to-peer education on recycling
  - 5 projects included initiatives to compost at the school cafeteria
  - 3 projects included food bus and food share components to reduce waste of unused food
- 8 projects went beyond waste and recycling to improve campus biodiversity, outdoor classrooms, and gardens.
- Most projects are replicable at other schools.
- Parents and guardians contributed over 100 volunteer hours in support of Liaison projects.



# Liaison Project Highlights



- ☛ Tuckahoe Elementary recycled an estimated 2500 markers for Crayola Cycle.
- ☛ 5<sup>th</sup> grade students at Long Branch, known as the *Recycling Rangers*, audited an estimated 6840 recycling bins this year, checking and remediating for cross-contamination.
- ☛ 300 students at Jamestown Elementary built up-cycled catapults using recycled materials for a STEAM Pumpkin Launch Competition.
- ☛ An estimated 800 lbs of unused food was donated by Arlington Traditional School to the Arlington Food Assistance Center (AFAC).
- ☛ Across two schools, students planted a total of 35 native species in school gardens for site-restoration and biodiversity remediation.
- ☛ Students learned about green careers in multiple projects.



# Connection to SOLs

Most schools linked at least one sustainability liaison project to Standards of Learning (SOLs)

**Key Concepts include:**

- Sources of energy
- Life cycles of plants and animals
- Photosynthesis
- Natural resources
- Investigation design and data collection
- Environmental changes over time



Sustainability concepts apply to all levels of scientific study (K-12, from physics to biology).





# Connection to the Whole Child Concept

**100%** of liaisons projects support **THE WHOLE CHILD**

## HEALTHY

Supported healthy environments (mental, emotional, & physical) to improve air quality, outdoor spaces, and time outdoors.

## SAFE

Promoted trust building in the classroom community through peer-to-peer education.

## ENGAGED

Encouraged student-led inquires, discussion, and service learning.

## SUPPORTED

Increased collaboration with teachers, parents, and guardians through over 100 volunteer hours.

## CHALLENGED

Fostered commitment to solving real world sustainability issues and awareness of green careers.





# Appendix

## Project Accomplishments at Each School



Arlington  
Public  
Schools



## Accomplishments

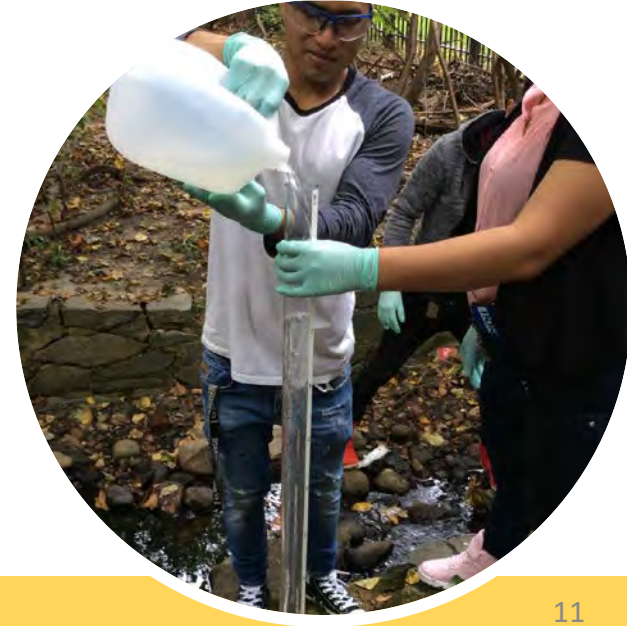
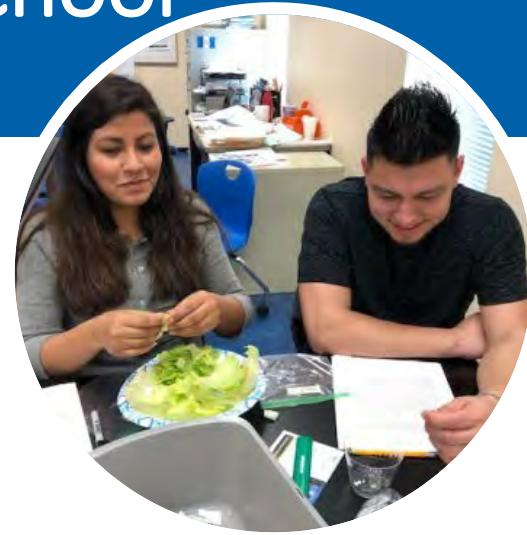
- ☞ In response to heavy percentages of food waste tracked in the waste/recycling site assessment, ACC implemented a composting initiative with 2 compost bins placed outside the greenhouse.
- ☞ Implemented a community 'Share Table' to reduce food waste and donated unused to AFAC and other programs.
- ☞ Students built and installed 16 birdboxes at Barcroft Park to remediate bird population biodiversity loss.





## Accomplishments

- Developed worm compost bins.
- Students participated in three sustainability-related research projects:
  - Compost-focused investigation on heat and decomposition rates.
  - Biodiversity loss on Monarch Butterflies.
  - Aquaponics stream study at Long Branch.





## Accomplishments

- ☞ To reduce waste, the Recycling Raiders Club helped make compost collections every Friday in the school cafeteria and weighed trash, recycling, and compost.
- ☞ The Recycling Raiders created new informational posters for all co-located recycling/trash bins.
- ☞ The liaison led a staff-wide training on recycling and also went to several classrooms to present to students.
- ☞ The Food Bus Program was reinitiated from a few years ago, donating on average 30 – 40 lbs of uneaten food to AFAC every Friday.





## Accomplishments

- ☞ This year, the 2017-2018 lunch food waste reduction and recycling program was expanded to include breakfast in response to the Waste/Recycling Site Assessment completed by the Liaison.
- ☞ 826 lbs of food was donated by ATS through their recycling and food waste reduction program.





## Accomplishments

- One project focused on the impact of milk carton waste at the school and an initiative was implemented to dispose of unused milk and recycle cartons.
- Students participated in a weekly recycling club learning about how to recycle.
- The recycling club audited 10 recycling bins each week, checking and remediating for cross-contamination.





## Accomplishments

- Several classrooms created compost bins and regularly added their food waste to the compost pile in the courtyard. They turned, watered, and sifted the compost to create new soil for our school garden.
- Approximately half of the classes worked to add to, turn, and spread the compost into the garden.
- Students in 1st and 4th grade learned about the benefits of walking and mass transit and how they reduce transit pollution. Student learned how to use and used ART busses and Metro on field trips in the area.





## Accomplishments

- ☞ Claremont started a Crayola recycling program and collected over 50 lbs of used markers to send back to Crayola.
- ☞ They re-designed the recycling station at the front of the school making it visible and informative to all.
- ☞ Students participated in a *plogging* project learning about waste clean up when recreating outdoors.
- ☞ Claremont teachers focused on upcycling plastic to make amazing art and murals for the school.







## Accomplishments

- ☞ Students used the power of art to make a difference with ACTION ACT projects.
  - ☞ Students worked with a community partner, Arlington Art Truck, to create a “Trash Garden.”
  - ☞ Using student photos of the schoolyard habitat, students wrapped #6 single use plastics from the Dining Commons to demonstrate a need to reduce. They subsequently asked facilities to stop purchasing these plastics.
- ☞ Students raised awareness about other initiatives such as:
  - ☞ Zero-waste lunch
  - ☞ 1 paper towel use in the bathroom
  - ☞ Terracycle for Go-Go Squeeze Pouches
  - ☞ Crayola Marker Recycling
- ☞ Students also improved their Schoolyard Habitat by planting native species, supporting enhancements to the outdoor classroom, taking the Pollinator Pledge, and educating others about the schoolyard habitat during school news.





## Accomplishments

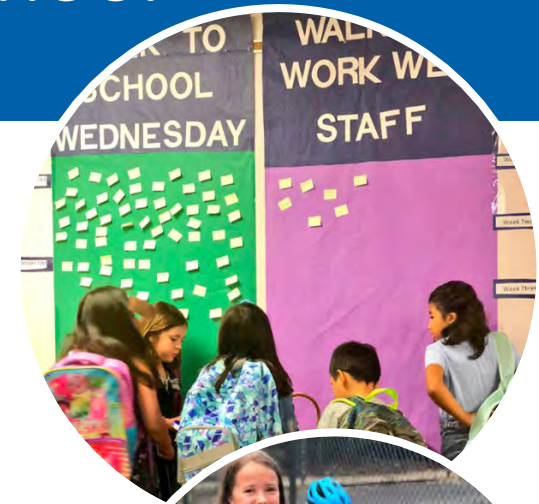
- Through the waste/recycling assessment, students learned that lunch recycling is low because many students and teachers are misinformed about what can be recycled.
- The Green Team created presentations to educate fellow students in the how's and whys of recycling, reusing, and reducing.
- In addition, they have determined where additional trash/recycling containers need to be placed and have created 3-D posters to explain what can be recycled during lunch.
- Students are working with PTA to find a way to compost efficiently at lunch.





## Accomplishments

- ☞ Once a week, a small team of students patrolled the hallways checking classrooms and offices for energy efficiency and educated students on opportunities to conserve more. Classrooms were recognized for conserving energy.
- ☞ On the last Friday of every month, Patrick Henry would celebrate Black Out Friday. Hallway lights were shut off (the principal handed over her light keys to our patrols for this job). Most classrooms participated by using only a sunny window to light the room.
- ☞ Each Wednesday, students were encouraged to walk, bike, carpool, or ride the bus to school. Children added their names to the monthly poster in the lobby. They entered their names into a drawing for a \$1 voucher to spend at the school store (funded by the PTA). On average 100 students participated per month.





## Accomplishments

- ☞ Students in third through fifth grades worked in teams to construct a catapult from recyclables and participated in a school-wide STEAM Catapult Launch Contest. About 300 students built catapults. 602 students were present for the launch.
- ☞ In the Site Waste Assessment, the liaison discovered that recycling bins are being contaminated by landfill trash and they developed an education and recycling initiative.
- ☞ The liaison also planned a cleanup involving families and the community in our gardens and courtyard classroom. Families helped with weeding, composing and propagating native plants.
- ☞ The Jamestown community learned how easy it is to compost.





## Accomplishments

- ☞ Made improvements to the Schoolyard Habitat.
- ☞ Revitalized the compost bin station.
- ☞ Cleaned up the Outdoors classroom space.
- ☞ Added native plants to Native pollinator Garden.
- ☞ Remediated invasive species and other weeds.
- ☞ Got students outdoors and into the Jefferson garden.





## Accomplishments

- 🍃 This year, the Long Branch Recycling Rangers recycled 79 lbs per student, 1st in the County.
- 🍃 The 5th Grade Recycling Rangers are responsible for emptying classroom recycle bins into hallway larger waste baskets 3-4 times a week.





## Accomplishments

- ☞ The school's Green Team completed a waste free lunch week, earning them a bronze award from the National Wildlife Federation.
- ☞ The team implemented other school-wide initiatives such as a black-out day on Earth Day and a marker recycling campaign.
- ☞ Several students and staff remarked on how their lunch-packing practices changed as a result of the waste-free lunch.
- ☞ On Earth Day the school turned out lights to make an effort to conserve electricity use





## Accomplishments

- Through recycling and food share initiatives, 2400 lbs. of food were donated to AFAC this year. This is food that in previous years would have ended up being thrown away.
- A food garden was created to provide fresh produce for AFAC while teaching students gardening skills.
- Two pollinator gardens were added and were filled with native plant species.
- Restructured and updated Certified Schoolyard Habitat.







## Accomplishments

- ☞ In partnership with News at 9, Tuckahoe's 5<sup>th</sup> grade Green Team provided recycling tips on the news, such as sharing how to Food Bus works.
- ☞ The Green Team involved the whole school community in saving used markers for recycling and recycled 9 lbs. of markers through color cycle.
- ☞ The Green Team attended an event at National Geographic Explorer to learn about sustainability, trash and recycling.





## Accomplishments

- ☞ The waste and recycling project at Wakefield focused on educating and engaging teachers.
- ☞ Students helped to create an outdoor classroom to focus on environmental education.
- ☞ Students cleaned up the wood where the outdoor classroom is being built, collecting over 100 lbs of trash and recyclables.





## Accomplishments

- ☞ Students at Yorktown began a recycling program with the environmental club two years ago and continued to fine tune their efforts this year, such as starting off-site composting of 200 gallons of waste each week from the cafeteria.
- ☞ Students surveyed all teachers to ensure that all classrooms and hallways have recycling and trash bins and are labeled.
- ☞ Students developed educational materials about recycling via promos and an ongoing slideshow in the cafeteria. Volunteers helped coordinate compost activities during lunches.
- ☞ The environmental club participated in a stream cleanup.

