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GREEN STAR SCHOOLS® NEWS

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Lyons Middle School Eco-Club reusable utensils drive. Courtesy of Kellie Courtney.

SAVE THE FORKS!

According to Eric Ditzler, School Food Project District Manager for BVSD, an average school loses about 1,000 reusable utensils a year.

While using washable utensils can save the school districts money and reduces waste, they are constantly being thrown away, taken home and found in staff lounges. It costs the school districts more money to replace these utensils than it costs to use single-use plastic forks .

Green Star School students in both districts are raising awareness and saving their reusable utensils from the landfill.

It started at Lafayette Elementary about six years ago. They noticed forks were continually disappearing.

They created and posted signs in the cafeteria to "Save the Forks" and eventually began one of the first fork drives.

Now it's catching on in other schools including Eisenhower Elementary, Pioneer Elementary , Centennial Middle and Lyons Middle-Senior High.

Students have been very successful in finding creative ways to encourage utensil donations from families.

Quinn Davies was crowned Fork King. He donated 325 utensils for the cafeteria to Centennial Middle School, Boulder. Courtesy of Ruth Hullinger.

EISENHOWER ECOEAGLES HAPPENINGS

BY MARTI HIRSCH, ECOEAGLES STAFF LEADER

The EcoEagles Green Team is a club of 20-30 kids who help our school make sustainable choices. We promote the Green Star Schools program and participate regularly in the Waste-Free Lunch Contest.

This year we also learned about ecosystems: Rainforests, coral reefs and deserts. Reducing and recycling paper waste helps save the rainforest because our paper products are often made from rainforest trees.

We made a model rain forest out of a paint pan using topsoil and vegetables like broccoli and celery, and we did an experiment to see what happens to the soil when the trees are cleared away.

We also learned about natural resources and how they are processed into everyday things. We "mined" chocolate chip cookies by removing all the chips, then attempted to put the cookie back together. Needless to say, it wasn't fully successful!

Eisenhower Waste-Free Lunch students!

EISENHOWER & LYONS ELEMENTARIES WIN THE 2018 WASTE-FREE LUNCH CONTEST!

Eisenhower Elementary won first place this year. They reduced their trash by 82% and increased their utensils in the kitchen by 51%. Lyons Elementary received second place, reducing their trash by 74% and increasing their reusable sporks by 7%. Congratulations to both schools!

GREEN STAR SCHOOLS®

Mary Parrish, Principal's Assistant at Arapahoe Ridge High, designed this lapel pin in honor of their Green Star kick- off on Valentine's Day.

NEWEST GREEN STAR SCHOOLS

The newest Green Star Schools for this school year are: Sunset Middle in Longmont, which kicked off in November; Arapahoe Campus (including the high school) in Boulder, which kicked off in February; Altona Middle in Longmont, which kicked off on March 20th; and Sanchez Elementary in Lafayette, which launched on April 9th.

Arapahoe Ridge High School student sorting in the cafeteria.

SCHOOLS ADDRESS FOOD WASTE

Both school districts are addressing food waste. Many of the Green Star Schools have cafeteria bins for uneaten fruit and unopened packaged food. Learn more from Eagle Crest Elementary's blog.

Here's an idea for a Green Star Schools grant application. Stephanie Potter's classroom reusable party-ware tub at Eagle Crest Elementary.

GREEN STAR SCHOOLS GRANTS DUE APRIL 23RD

Don't forget to submit your Green Star Schools grant application, which is due **Monday, April 23, 2018.**

Some schools apply for compostables for their all-school classroom parties or all-school events.

Others, like Centennial Middle School last year, win a grant to purchase reusables for each classroom or for all-school events.

Get creative in reducing your waste! Propose a new waste reduction project idea for your school!

Signage at Lafayette Elementary

WASTE-FREE IS THE WAY TO BE

Green Star Schools are finding creative ways to reduce contamination and increase program participation. Lafayette Elementary staff created new signage for their cafeteria and staff lounge, while Heatherwood Elementary student council does an impressive job with their program!

Heatherwood Elementary Student Council educates and maintains containers for their school. Courtesy of Nicole Martini.

SEND SUBMISSIONS & PHOTOS FOR THE NEXT NEWSLETTER TO:

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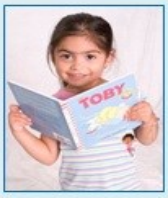
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