



eco-cycle

# GREEN STAR SCHOOLS® NEWS

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*Southern Hills Middle School 5-Year Green Star Schools celebration was attended by (left to right): Dr. Bruce Messinger, BVSD Superintendent; Michele Melio, Green Star Schools Project Manager; Chavonne Gloster, Principal; Elise Jones, Boulder County Commissioner and Suzanne Jones, Eco-Cycle Executive Director.*

## GREEN STAR SCHOOLS FIVE-YEAR CELEBRATIONS

This fall, three schools celebrated five years in the program: Southern Hills Middle, Lafayette Elementary and Blue Mountain Elementary.

Southern Hills' award assembly included a recycling-relay game created by student council.

The school invited Dr. Messinger, Boulder Valley

School District Superintendent (who was already speaking at the assembly) to participate in the relay.

Each of the three teams was made up of a student and an adult.

The relay began with contestants collecting an armload of white paper and emptying it into a paper-recycling barrel.

Then the teams had to knock down soda bottles by bowling with a frozen

turkey breast.

The entire school cheered enthusiastically for the Superintendent .

## BLUE MOUNTAIN ELEMENTARY: ROLE MODELS FOR ZERO WASTE

Kristie Venrick, Principal at Blue Mountain Elementary, shared their school's efforts in reducing waste:

"As a school, we do not serve food for parties or celebrations, including birthdays and holidays. Therefore, we do not have any waste from disposable or compostable utensils, etc.

We currently promote recycling through our Earth Week activities each year by learning about different aspects of being responsible citizens and taking care of our earth.

This past spring, we did a school-wide

*Design Thinking Challenge* where each class created an arcade game out of recyclable or reusable materials.

We organized a family night where the community came together and played the students' upcycled arcade games and won prizes which were donated by families. Prizes were gently-used games, toys, sports equipment, etc."



*Blue Mountain's arcade included students' upcycled cardboard games. Photo courtesy of Blue Mountain Elementary.*



## COMPOSTING NEWS OF THE SEASON!

This school year, Eco-Cycle offered the new Classroom Worm Bin Project to Green Star Schools which includes a free worm bin, presentations and coaching throughout the school year. The response was overwhelming with 30 teachers vying to receive a worm bin so that their students could learn about vermiculture. There were only eight slots available. All other teachers were placed on the waiting list for next school year.

*Mapleton ECC teachers made their own laminated posters for their pre-school classroom waste stations.*

## GREEN STAR SCHOOLS®



*Emerson Costella, kindergartner at Douglass Elementary, was amazed by the birds of prey at the 10-Year Green Star Schools celebration.*

### 10 YEARS AS A GREEN STAR SCHOOL

This fall four schools celebrated ten years as a Green Star School. They were BCSIS, High Peaks, Douglass Elementary and Horizons K-8.

Eco-Cycle showed appreciation for their hard work by providing [Hawk Quest](#) presentations featuring live birds of prey. The celebrations included two days of classroom refreshers and a prize-wheel drawing for students at lunch recesses.

The next school that will be joining the 40 already enrolled in the program is Indian Peaks Elementary in Longmont. They will kick off in January.

### CASEY T.V. MAKING A DIFFERENCE

Students from Casey Middle School recently visited the Boulder County Recycling Center to film and to learn more about the importance of recycling and composting.

They also interviewed Michele Melio, Green Star Schools Project

Manager, about Zero Waste best practices. The video was placed on [You Tube](#) for students and staff to view.

### UNIVERSITY HILL ELEMENTARY THANKFUL FOR GREEN STAR SCHOOLS GRANT

University Hill Elementary was one of three schools that received the Green Star Schools grant this past spring. While Uni Hill received a grant for compostable materials, Lafayette and Douglass Elementary chose to purchase more durables for their classroom parties.

Hannah Cohen, 5th grader at Uni Hill, had this to say about their school receiving the Eco-Cycle grant:

“Fortunately, Uni Hill received a grant for compostable party supplies for everyone to celebrate four different events this school year: Halloween, winter break, Valentine’s Day and the last day of school.

Not only will this be good for our planet, but we will hopefully spread the message that even on special occasions, we should do our best to be environmentally aware. Uni Hill is very grateful for the grant for compostable cups and plates.”

### LAFAYETTE ELEMENTARY’S LENDING CUPBOARD BASICS

Many schools are looking at ways to have completely Zero Waste events and parties. Reusing is key. Instead of using compostable plates, cups

and utensils (which do stay out of the landfill), they are using durables.

Lafayette Elementary PTA has coordinated a Lending Cupboard for over five years. The washable dishes, utensils and cups are used for classroom parties and all-school events, like their annual Heritage Night.

How do they manage the cupboard?

Last school year, the chairperson of the Lending Cupboard contacted teachers several weeks prior to each classroom party to notify them that they were accepting requests for reusable party-ware.

They also asked each classroom teacher to provide a parent volunteer to assist with collecting, washing and returning all of the items.

When the parties were over, the cleaned items were returned for storage in large cabinets located in their staff lounge.

### SUBMIT INFORMATION FOR THE NEXT NEWSLETTER TO:



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## ECO-CYCLE’S CHILDREN’S USED BOOK PROJECT

Order free books for school fundraisers, classroom libraries or student incentives from Eco-Cycle’s Children’s Used Book Project. This includes classroom teacher sets on a wide variety of topics. Contact Amanda Fox, 303-444-6634, ext. 103 or [amanda@ecocycle.org](mailto:amanda@ecocycle.org).

