



eco-cycle

GREEN STAR SCHOOLS® NEWS

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Hygiene Elementary Green Star Duck reminds students to return reusable utensils.

THE NEWEST GREEN STAR SCHOOL

Hygiene Elementary kicked off in October as the 37th Green Star School. Forty-five percent of the public schools in Boulder County are now in the program.

Students at Hygiene are very excited about joining. One fourth-grade girl told Eco-Cycle staff that she no longer uses paper towels to dry her hands after learning that every time she uses a paper towel she uses part of a tree.

In addition, Hygiene is using Eco-Cycle's Green Star Duck to remind students to return their reusable utensils. The duck floats in the wash tub to focus attention on the importance of reusing their sporks, so that they don't end up in the trash by carelessness or mistake.

At the beginning of the school year, before becoming a Green Star School, the kitchen manager ordered over 300 reusable sporks, which disappeared within a couple of weeks. Even with the help of the custodian at the waste station, sporks still ended up in the trash, in student lunch boxes or on the playground being used as digging tools.

Students are now placing all of their plastic utensils in the wash tub thanks to the Green Star Duck and students' learning the importance of saving resources. They will

continue to use the duck until the middle of December as a friendly reminder.

GREEN STAR SCHOOLS FIVE-YEAR CELEBRATIONS

This fall, four schools celebrated five years in the program: Ryan Elementary, Eagle Crest Elementary, University Hill Elementary and Longmont Estates Elementary.

Eagle Crest's award assembly included a presentation by the 5th

graders from the school's MESA program. The 5th graders used a Power-Point and visual aids to explain what it means to be a Green Star School, and also conducted a sorting game with audience participation.

This very active group has also done pod audits, and has educated staff and students on many ways to reduce resource consumption at home and at school. Learn more at their [blog site](#).



Eagle Crest 5th grade MESA students presented at their five-year celebration assembly. Photo courtesy of Stephanie Potter.

COMPOSTING NEWS OF THE SEASON!

Boulder Valley School District School Food Project had their Harvest Festival in October. Many booths featured local farmers' produce and prepared food. These local farmers will be providing fresh produce to BVSD for school lunches. Eco-Cycle also staffed a table where children participated in worm wrangling with live red worms. They learned how compostable waste is turned into fertilizer for plants.



Soon we will be offering free worm bins and worm bin training for Green Star Schools classrooms! If you are interested, please contact Michele Melio at (303) 444-6634, ext. 118 or email her at schools@ecocycle.org.

GREEN STAR SCHOOLS® UPDATES



New Vista High School Earth Task Force students. Photo courtesy of Cottonwood Institute.

NEW VISTA HIGH SCHOOL'S EARTH TASK FORCE

Earth Task Force students work with Eco-Cycle and the Cottonwood Institute on green initiatives.

New Vista has been organizing relay-race recycling competitions every year, even before they became a Green Star School two years ago. Student advisories compete with one another for the title of the best at recycling and composting. The advisory that gets the most points for sorting their materials correctly wins the title.

To learn more about the relays, go to [Cottonwood's blog](#).

Your school can still take advantage of relay refresher

presentations this school year by signing up now. We can come to your school in January or February.

LAFAYETTE ELEMENTARY STUDENT GREEN TEAM

Tonja Loendorf, a Green Team Parent, wrote the following:

"Lafayette Elementary has forty-five 3rd-5th graders who volunteer enthusiastically for the Green Team.

Volunteers finish their lunches a few minutes early and don green aprons. They help insure that cups are stacked properly for washing, that forks go into a basin (rather than into the compost), and that trash, recycling and compostables are sorted properly. These students are exhibiting both leadership and stewardship of the earth, while helping the school meet its green goals.

The program is also greatly appreciated by the cafeteria and



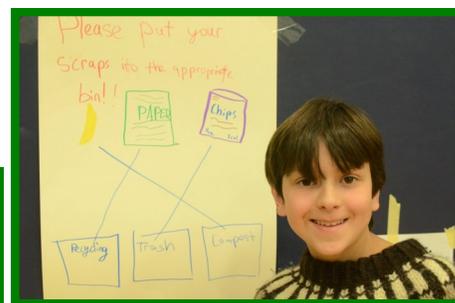
Lafayette Elementary's Green Team making a difference!

janitorial staff who are relieved of overseeing these tasks during a very busy time of day, allowing them to devote their attention to caring for our student body during lunch. It's a win-win situation on every level!"

SUMMIT MIDDLE SCHOOL NETZERO CLUB

Summit Middle School used certified compostable tableware for their recent Zero Waste International Night.

Ari Gibson-Greene, a 7th grader and member of the NetZero Club, went above and beyond at the waste Stations, assisting Eco-Cycle staff. With the guidance of Stephen Goettsche and Adam Perkins as sponsor teachers, the club focuses on keeping their school green.



Ari Gibson-Greene helps at the International Night at Summit Middle.

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. Contact Amanda Fox, 303-444-6634, ext. 103 or amanda@ecocycle.org.

