

SPREADING THE WORD



Under the Sustainable Marblehead umbrella, the Education Working Group partners with schools and community organizations assisting faculty, administrators, parents, students and leaders to raise awareness, develop environmental education programs and embed sustainability practices in their communities.

Below is an update of recent activity, action and events!

BE MY "GREEN" VALENTINE!

Sustainable MHD volunteers celebrated the holiday with 2nd graders at Coffin, 3rd graders at Village and a Girls Scout Troop making Valentine's out of newspaper and recycled construction paper. Their adorable paper-pulp hearts are embedded with pollinator seeds so whomever receives the Valentine can plant it in the spring! Beautiful flowers attract bees and butterflies!

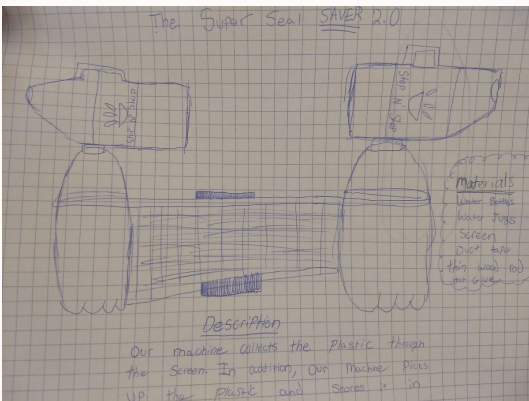
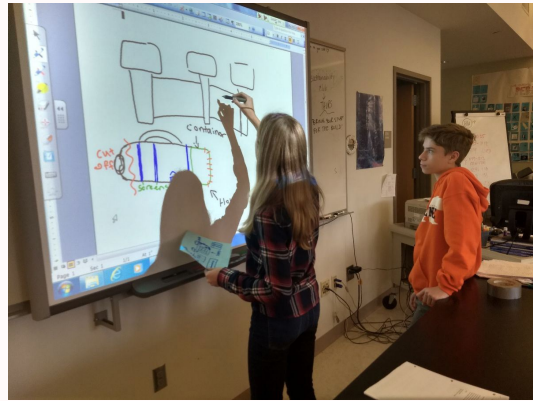


Bike Marblehead

BIKE MHD CELEBRATION Celebrate cycling in Marblehead -- March 4th 6:30-8:30pm at The Barrelman! Join two-wheeled friends to thank former Marblehead Cycle shop owners Chris and Suzanne Finn for their efforts and service for over 30+ years supporting and

promoting cycling -- and welcome the shop's [new owner Dan Shuman](#).

A portion of the evenings' proceeds from The Barrelman will go toward Bike Marblehead events planned for 2020!



NEW CLUB WINS STATE CHALLENGE Marblehead Veterans Middle School's new Environmental Club participated in [STEM Week Challenge](#) hosted by Project Lead the Way and MassStem Hub. For their "Zero Waste" theme, they solved their design problem by building prototype devices out of recycled plastic to collect microplastics and microfibers in water! The team included MVMS students Gwyn Anderson, Will Woodward, Ethan Rule and Quinn Fletcher and faculty leader Kate Reynolds. Placing first in the 6-8 Grade Plastics Waste category, the team won Celtics tickets and a tour to learn about sustainable initiatives at TD Garden! [More info here.](#)



MHS IS NEW-AGE FARMING With the help of MHS students Riley Bowen, Ann Sabin, Ellie Bouchard and Piper Morgan, MHS is about to have its 4th harvest of new age food. Learning to grow in water and air -- rather than traditionally in soil -- students are farming on four vertical aeroponic systems called Tower Gardens located in different classrooms. Teacher Connor Ryan estimates his students have grown over 20 pounds of leafy veggies including arugula, rainbow chard, lettuces, kale, and basil! Students start seeds in an aquaponic system in which plants grow in water. Nutrients in the water from fish effluence -- yes, they are also raising tilapia -- are absorbed by roots and feed seedlings growing in a closed-loop aquaponic 'garden'. In the photo, they have a healthy crop of beans, peppers, and cucumber seedlings almost ready to be transplanted from the aquaponic system into the vertical aeroponic Tower Garden where plant roots grow in air. Fun, far out farming!



GREEN PAWS AT THE LIBRARY At Abbot Children's Library, the March/April Green Paws installation includes a display of all different types of straws and the materials used to make them. There is also an interactive recycling sorting game and Word Search Challenge! Open to all, Green Paws rotates sustainability displays every two months challenging families to read and explore "green" activities at home.

WALK/BIKE TO SCHOOL & NO-IDLING Check out the recent [front page MHD Reporter article](#) highlighting Green Honor Society's campaign to stop idling at MHS. Great work, Judith Black and students! We need help promoting better safe routes to school and no-idling compliance to keep our bikers and walkers safe on their way to school! [Send us an email](#) to learn more about how to get involved at your school!





EPSTEIN HILLEL SUSTAINABILITY SYMPOSIUM There was high interest and a great turnout for Hillel's first ever Environmental Education Symposium. After screening sections of the film *Wasted: The Story of Food Waste*, experts highlighted what's being done locally to divert food from becoming waste. A question and answer session highlighted the importance of exposing children to their own environmental impact and how critical it is to shift our habits as adults. First Grade Teacher Emily Galore said, "If anything, the symposium felt more like the start of a conversation, and we're excited to see where the dialogue leads."

WANTED: STUDENT ART & IDEAS!

Given Governor Baker's recent signing of the [Hands-Free Driving Bill](#), MassDOT's Safe Routes to School announced a new themed poster contest to support awareness of Distracted Driving. The contest will officially open February 25; deadline for submissions is March 27. Complete [contest](#)

[information](#) on Mass.gov. Four winning student submissions will be chosen and made into yard signs which will be distributed to SRTS partner schools around the Commonwealth.



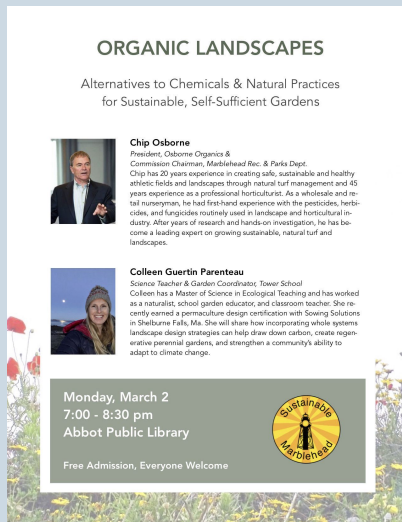
SUSTAINABILITY IN SCHOOL Teacher Colleen Parenteau shared a smattering of recent sustainability-oriented learning happening at Tower School this year:

- As part of 4th/5th grade social justice curriculum through the school's ServeUp program, students learn from professionals at local organizations to better understand the challenges of food security on the North Shore. Working with [The Food Project](#), [Project Bread](#), [SPUR](#), [My Brother's Table](#), and [Marblehead Food Pantry](#), students will work to help alleviate hunger as the school rolls out its new campus-wide gardening programs this spring.
- Seventh grade is studying the power of photosynthesis in capturing carbon dioxide and converting it into biomass and relating it to carbon sequestration.
- Eighth graders are looking at the chemistry of water, carbon dioxide and carbonic acid as a way to further understand ocean acidification.



Upcoming Events

Organic Landscapes
Abbot Public Library
March 2nd 7-8:30pm FREE
[click for more information](#)



Education Working Group
Sustainable Marblehead
Monthly Meeting
April 8th 7-8:30pm
Marblehead Community Center
OPEN TO ALL
DO'ERS WELCOME

We want to hear from you! Find us on [Facebook](#) and [Instagram](#).

Sustainable Marblehead
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SustainableMarblehead.org

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