

Parent Green Team Guidance and Calendar

As a green team parent, your job is to support the green school program at your school. This position is the liaison between the PTA, the principal, and the green team teacher. Below are a list of things you can aim to do. Thanks for volunteering to support this incredibly important work for our students!

Monthly:

- Check in with your green team teacher and learn what the team is working on.
- When possible, attend your school's student green team meeting.
- Attend your PTA meeting and present what GT is working on.
- Share outreach articles that will be sent to you by Action Committee for Environmental Sustainability (ACES) (parent green team) to be run in school newsletters.
- Make sure PTA events that host food, promote sustainability in their announcements "This is a Zero Waste Event, Please Sort Your Trash" Having a sign at the event, by the trash stations, would be ideal! Our school district supplies all compostable materials for school wide events (plates, cups, utensils etc...)

AUGUST/SEPTEMBER

- Familiarize yourself with the Green Schools Roles and Responsibilities doc on the district website under 'Green Schools'.
- Review this calendar
- Check in with your GT teacher to find out when your school's **Green Square** meeting is being held? This will include the custodian, GT teacher, GT parent and principal.

At this meeting, 1) Lightly review GT Roles and Responsibility commitments, 2) discuss when they plan to play the lunchroom Compost/Recycle video at the start of school, 3) make sure the custodian has proper signage for all trash stations and find out if they want parent volunteers to help monitor stations in the lunchroom, 4)ask the custodian about what support he needs to help things run smoothly, 5) ask the teacher if they have a theme or plan for the year that the PTA can support. 6)Ask for principal support in the lunchroom with reminders about our participation in this program...

- Attend your school's first PTA meeting and remind/share that there is a 'Green Guidelines for Classroom Party, Staff Appreciation and Schoolwide Events' document. Send the document out to your PTA board, as well as your school's Room Parent Coordinator and Staff Appreciation Chair to share with all room parents.
- Ask the PTA if you can have a table at the welcome coffee and make a sign-up for parent volunteers to come into your schools lunchroom to help oversee trash stations.

OCTOBER

- Attend the District Green Team Meeting
- Halloween Parties - At this month's PTA meeting, reminder to Room Parents to use compostable supplies in classroom parties or reusable supplies if they have them. Compostable supplies can be purchased at QFC, New Seasons or through our Food Services Dept. Make sure your room parents have a copy of the 'Green Classroom Party Guidelines'.

- Happening this month: International Walk or Bike to School, PTA Reminder to families to compost pumpkins

NOVEMBER

- Happenings this month: PTA suggestion: Take the 100 mile Thanksgiving Challenge (everything on your plate for the holiday is from within 100 miles)

JANUARY

- Touch base with green square team about our 2nd re-education to our students about everything we told them in the fall. Review the September calendar benchmarks and begin a shorter version of the education about why the GSP matters and what we are doing in our school to support it, announcements in the lunchroom by the principal, play a new recycling video etc..
- Discuss with the PTA if they want to do anything in support of April's Earth Week. PTA can host a week of activities or just one day of something (i.e., organic and local smoothies made by parents etc..)

FEBRUARY

- Attend the District Green Team Meeting
- Valentine's Day! At this month's PTA meeting, reminder to Room Parents to use compostable supplies in classroom parties or reusable supplies if they have them. Compostable supplies can be purchased at QFC, New Seasons or through our Food Services Dept. Make sure your room parents have a copy of the 'Green Classroom Party Guidelines'.
- IF PTA is working on Earth Week activities, touch base on that as well.

MARCH

- Work with PTA on parent outreach around Earth Week and collect volunteers
- Earth Week Ideas:
Local and Organic Smoothie Day using IMPERFECT PRODUCE
Walk, Bike or Carpool to School
Waste Free Lunch Day (maybe give out a cookie for kids that produce zero trash in their lunch)
Plant some vegetables at home (get seeds or starters donated maybe or sell them?)

APRIL

- Earth Week Roll Out

MAY

- End of the Year parties: At this month's PTA meeting, make a reminder to Room Parents for the JUNE "End of the Year" parties, to use compostable supplies in classroom parties or reusable supplies if they have

them. Compostable supplies can be purchased at QFC, New Seasons or through our Food Services Dept. Make sure your room parents have a copy of the 'Green Classroom Party Guidelines'.

JUNE

- Make sure each school has a green team parent lined up for the fall.

Monthly Activities or Projects:

- Morning announcements about "What Goes Where" for students to refresh their memory.
- have students make sure every classroom has a labeled recycling bin and offices too!
- set up an assembly with your principal through King County Green Schools (its free and they run it)
- consider all the different collection drives you can run throughout the year (crayons, markers, denim, bottle cap for art, etc...)
- student sustainability pledges
- Support Farmers markets. Local produce is super sustainable
- At high school, touch base with athletes and their pledge
- Campaign on Food Waste Reduction in the lunchroom! Kids weigh bins every day for a week, tally it up, then have kids promote eating all their food or take leftovers for home for a snack. Then then run it a second week while weighing the bins again.
- Single-Use Plastics and Ocean Plastics Campaign with morning announcements, posters and education on how it harms our environment and wildlife.
- How to be green when you go out and about in town with your family (bring reusable bags, reusable water bottles, reusable straws, eat out instead of in to-go containers)