

RCDS Going Green

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Interviews on Campus Featuring:

- Mr. Beard: Sustainable Campus Care & Maintenance**
- Mr. Nelson : Lower School Courtyard Garden Proposal**
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Upcoming Events

Feb 17th-
Mar 13th

Green Cup Challenge

KING, GFA, and RCDS
Paper and Electricity
Reducing Challenge

February

Recycling Cell Phone Drive

See Flyer on page 6 for
more information

Drop boxes will be located
in US and MS Principal's
Offices



What is the Green Cup Challenge?

Rye Country Day School, Greens Farms Academy, and King will be participating in the Green Cup Challenge for the second year in a row. The competition is based upon a boarding school model that Exeter, Lawrenceville, and Northfield Mount Herman initiated in 2006.

The initial goals of the Green Cup Challenge are to educate the community on the importance of resource conservation, and to measure and reduce campus electricity. Each school will calculate their electricity usage based on their kilowatt-hour consumption from the previous year as well as the square footage of their campus' buildings. This measurement is then compared to the final kilowatt-hours used at the end of the competition, and the school with the greatest percentage decrease wins the challenge. Last year, GFA reduced their energy use by 9%, while RCDS and King reduced their energy by about 4%.

This year the challenge will also be supporting student and faculty efforts to reduce our paper use on campus! The Challenge will take place from February 17th-March 13th and it will continue after spring break throughout the month of April.

Approximately, how much paper do you think
RCDS used in two months?

- a. 150,000 sheets b. 200,000 sheets c. 250,000 sheets

Answer found on page 7

What is RCDS Doing on Campus?



On November 25 three representatives from the Middle School Green Team, *Henry Townley, Allison Conn and Katie Tyler*, met with Mr. Beard in order to interview him about several important environmental issues concerning RCDS. Mr. Beard works as the facilities manager at RCDS, and he is in charge of all the maintenance around our school. Mr. Beard was interviewed on three general topics, campus planting and lawn care, electricity and energy use, and what products are used to clean the building.

CAMPUS PLANTING AND LAWN CARE

Q. *Do we use pesticides/herbicides? If not, what products do we use?*

A. According to Mr. Beard the school makes sure it uses absolutely no herbicides or pesticides. Instead it uses organic fungicides to treat plants and to promote lawn growth and vinegar to treat weeds. These organic fungicides are actually made from products such as corn gluten and fermented fish. These fungicides are so healthy that you can practically eat them but, just to make sure, they are only used while kids are not at the school.

Q. *When did this change?*

A. The school did use pesticides at one point, but it has been at least three or four years since it has last used them.

ELECTRICITY AND ENERGY USE

Q. *We heard that you and your crew changed the light bulbs in our buildings. What were they before and what type of light bulbs did you replace them with?*

A. The school used to have T12 light bulbs that were very energy inefficient; the school used about 60–80 watts of energy. Recently, though, the school replaced these with fluorescent T5 light bulbs. These new light bulbs give of the same amount of light, but they only use about 15-20 watts.

Q. *Was the cost of the new light bulbs significantly more because they were energy saving light bulbs?*

A. The cost of the new light bulbs was more, but Mr. Beard expects them to make up for the cost by the end of the year.

Continued...

Q. *How long did it take you to replace them?*

A. The maintenance crew on campus replaced the bulbs in stages. In total it took them three to five weeks to change all the bulbs.

Q. *With the gas and oil prices as they are now – how long do you think it may be before we really see the energy savings?*

A. Now that the end of the first six months is nearing the school is already starting to compare the bills. Mr. Beard is projecting that the energy bill for the new bulbs will be eight to ten percent

of the former cost, which is an enormous difference. If RCDS had, for example, first been paying \$1,000 for the energy bill before it changed the bulbs, the school is now only paying less than \$100.



Rye Country Day is on the fast track of schools going green. The Middle School Green Team would like to thank Mr. Beard for taking the time for an interview and educating the Green Team about the school's environmental solutions.

Lower School Garden

CLEANING THE FACILITIES

Q. *There is a company that comes to clean the buildings at night - do they use eco-friendly products? If so, what type of products do they use?*

A. The company that comes at night to clean the building tries to use as many eco-friendly products as possible. Most of these eco-friendly products are from the brand Ecolab. But, because of viruses, sometimes they are forced to use antibacterial chemicals for health reasons.

Q. *Are there any other projects or actions taking place to make changes in becoming a green campus?*

A. Beside these projects we are also working on controlling the air conditioning and using more natural products for treating the trees and shrubs.

PROPOSED GARDEN FOR THE LOWER SCHOOL COURTYARD

Interview conducted by Campbell Davitt, Halle Paredes, Sabrina Fasanella and Marisa Kim and compiled by Mary Felton

Shortly before the winter break Campbell Davitt, Halle Paredes, Sabrina Fasanella and Marisa Kim met with Mr. Nelson in his office to ask him questions about the future of the LS courtyard.

Q. *Sabrina Fasanella: Will we clean the courtyard before planting the garden?*

A. Mr. Nelson: Yes, we will need to remove the planters.

Q. *Marisa Kim: Will we need a lot of plants?*

A. Mr. Nelson: Yes, but it will depend on the floor support and the amount of dirt and water needed for the garden.

Q. *Marisa Kim: Do you want to use fewer chemicals to grow the plants in this garden?*

A. Mr. Nelson: Yes, this will be an organic, no chemical, garden.

Q. *Halle Paredes: What do you plan on putting the courtyard?*

A. Mr. Nelson: Lettuce is one item

Q. *Halle Paredes: Who will take care of the courtyard garden?*

A. Mr. Nelson: The students that plant in the garden will take care of the garden.

Continued on page 4



*Lower School Courtyard
continued*

Q. Campbell Davitt: Is this garden going to be for the whole school?

A. Mr. Nelson: The garden will be mostly for the Lower School.

Q. Campbell Davitt.: Are the plants going to be food?

A. Mr. Nelson: Most of the plants will be for food.

Q. Campbell Davitt: Can we have a gardening class to plant and learn about the garden?

A. Mr. Nelson: Yes!

Q. Campbell Davitt: Can we put trees in the courtyard garden?

A. Mr. Nelson: Yes! At this point, the plans are drawn up for the courtyard garden, but the date for when the garden construction will take place is yet to be determined.

Reducing our Carbon Footprint: Interview with Mr. Manrique, director of FLIK at RCDS

Interview conducted by fourth graders Anika Narain and Shaun Rodriguez ~ Compiled by Mary Felton

One morning, a few days before the winter break, Anika Narain and Shaun Rodriguez, members of the Lower School Going Green club this fall, sat down with Mr. Manrique to talk about the things FLIK is doing to be sustainable.

Q. Shaun Rodriguez: Where do you get your food?

A. Mr. Manrique: Our bread comes from Port Chester and our veggies come from New York City.

Q. Anika Narain: How much organic food do you use?

A. Mr. Manrique: We try to get some food from local vendors. We don't use a lot of organic food because it's very expensive.

Q. Shaun Rodriguez: How long do you keep the dishwasher on during the day?

A. Mr. Manrique: From 11:15-2:00pm on the weekdays. There are 700 plates in all and 3,000 plates get washed each day.

Q. Anika Narain: How long do you keep the sink running when you wash fruit or vegetables?

A. Mr. Manrique: For 4-5



minutes.

Q. Shaun Rodriguez: What do you recycle?

A. Mr. Manrique: We recycle cans, bottles, cardboard, paper and oil. We also use biodegradable napkins and disposable utensils that are made of potatoes and corn.

Q. Anika/Shawn: How much do you recycle each year?

A. Mr. Manrique: A lot!

Q. Shaun Rodriguez: How much garbage do you throw away each year?

A. Mr. Manrique: In the US/MS dining room we throw away 60 pounds of garbage 3 times a day. In the LS dining room we throw away 60 pounds of garbage twice a day.

There are also 4 garbage barrels in the kitchen.

Q. Anika Narain: Do you think you could minimize the amount of garbage?

A. Mr. Manrique: It's what we try to do every day.

RCDS Recycling Efforts

The Westchester County Recycling Center

On January 23, Caroline Breinin, Marisol Dahl, and Cody Nilsen from the Upper School Environmental Club got a special tour of the Daniel B. Thomas Recycling Center run by John Scaramuzzo. John Scaramuzzo is part of the Environmental Division of the Westchester Government, and he was so kind to tell us some really amazing facts about the Recycling Center!



Altogether, there are 43 municipalities in Westchester, and 36 come to this building with their garbage and recycling. The recycling center actually has two functions, which are recycling and transferring garbage. The garbage of Westchester is burned in a facility near Bear Mountain that uses steam generators. Because of the large amount of steam generated, 53,000 homes are fed daily from the electricity. The amazing part about this process is how clean the facility is where our garbage is burned: the smoke from one cigarette is dirtier than the smoke coming out of the steam generator!

Last year, Westchester County received over nine million dollars by selling its recyclables, which was used to offset taxes! An amazing statistic, though, is that only 20% of garbage thrown out is garbage, while 80% is recyclables. Also 500,000 trees are cut down for a weekend's newspaper publication in the U.S., but, if you recycle one ton of paper, 17 trees can be saved.

Below is a list of some of the things that can be recycled:

1. Any form of paper
2. #1 and #2 plastics (look at the triangle at the bottom of your plastic to find the number): within one year, the Daniel B. Thomas Recycling Centers hopes to be taking all forms of plastic
3. Pizza boxes are recyclable even if there is a little oil and grease on them, just make sure they are not food contaminated
4. Magazines, phone books, newspapers, junk mail, and envelopes can all be recycled
5. Pasta and cereal boxes can be recycled
6. Metal and soda cans
7. Cell phones can be recycled-> drop them off in the Hope Line recycling drive boxes in the Upper and Middle School starting in February
8. Did you know jeans are recycled in a building in Massachusetts where they are bleached, very finely chopped up, and made into American dollar bills?

***Article written by Caroline Breinin –
President of the Upper School***

Recycling Cell Phone Drive

In February



Let's bring Hope to those who need it and be environmentally friendly at the same time!

Please bring in your old cell phones to school during the month of February for a HopeLine Recycling Cell Phone Drive.

The cell phones collected will go to shelters serving women who are victims of domestic violence.

If possible, please remove all private information and photos from your phone before donating.

Recellular will remove information as a back-up precaution.

Drop-off boxes for cell phones will be located in the principals' offices in the Upper and Middle Schools.

For more information, please go to <http://www.westchestergov.com/cellphone>.



New Middle School Logo: Original Design by seventh grader Jason Goettisheim

How much paper did RCDS
use in two months?
Answer is C: 250,000

LS/MS Faculty room 145,000
sheets and the US Faculty room
used 105,00 sheets in two months!

According to National Geographic
250,000 sheets is equivalent to pulping
25 full grown trees!

What's next issue?

- Find out about RCDS Alumni who are currently working for Environmental Organizations
- What is an Energy Audit, and how did RCDS do?
- It's carpool and public transportation time!
- The Catalog Cancelling Challenge at home and at school
http://www.parkschool.org/blogs/ted_wells/