



Becoming a Green Ribbon School

Thompson School Green Team Integration
Arlington Public School District
May 24, 2018



District Wide Comprehensive Sustainability Won Arlington Public Schools State and National Recognition as Green Ribbon Schools



- ▶ Pillar 1: Reducing Environmental Impacts and Costs
- ▶ Pillar 2: Creating Healthy Schools
- ▶ Pillar 3: Integrating Environmental and Sustainability Education
 - ▶ Green Team Clubs
 - ▶ Integration of STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Math) HEALS (Health, Environmental Action, Lessons in Sustainability) K-12 Curriculum

Compelling Shared Mission Inspired Thompson Elementary Sustainability Integration

- ▶ Mission Statement: The Thompson Green Team cares about the earth, the environment, all people and all living creatures. The Green Team aims to empower and support students and the broader Thompson community to take action to preserve our environment and create a just, healthy and life sustaining society. Guided by student interest, ideas, and energy, the Green Team provides opportunities and coordinates curriculum and activities that have a meaningful and positive impact.

Leadership, Collaboration, Innovation and Student Empowerment led to a rapid and successful Thompson Elementary Sustainability Integration

- ▶ Rachel Oliveri, APS Sustainability Coordinator
- ▶ Karen Donato, Principal, and Vicki Rose, Administrative Assistant
- ▶ Food Services Staff, Lunch Room Monitors and Janitorial Staff
- ▶ Teachers, Nurse, Social Worker, Librarian
- ▶ School Green Team Parent Leaders and Parent Volunteers
- ▶ Thompson PTO
- ▶ Thompson After School Program
- ▶ Community Partners: Food link, Arlington Eats, Mothers Out Front, Arlington Garden Club
- ▶ District Wide Leaders: Ken Pruitt, Town Energy & Project Manager, Dr. Kathleen Bodie APS Superintendent, Dr. Susan Franchi, APS Nursing Director, Charlotte Milan, DPW Recycling Coordinator, Denise Boucher, APS Food Services Director, Sara Burd, APS Director of Social Emotional Learning, APS School Committee, Adam Chapdelaine, Town Manager.

Pillar One: Reducing Environmental Impact and Costs (waste, water, energy, greenhouse gases, and transportation)

- ▶ Waste Reduction:
 - ▶ Recycling Systems
 - ▶ Industrial Composting Systems
 - ▶ Textile Recycling Bins and Annual Competition
 - ▶ 5th Graders' Zero Waste Campaign
 - ▶ 4th Graders' This is the Last Straw Campaign
- ▶ Energy Efficiency:
 - ▶ Renewable Energy Systems-solar panels
 - ▶ Rebuild: efficient natural gas boilers, LED exterior lighting, kitchen upgrades, steam trap upgrades, energy management systems
 - ▶ Community Choice Energy Op Up Campaign with Mothers Out Front

Pillar Two: Improving Health and Wellness

- ▶ Fit Girls/Boys in Motion-Running Club
- ▶ Arlington Eats
- ▶ Morning Mindfulness
- ▶ Open Circle Program
- ▶ Responsive Classroom
- ▶ School Garden
- ▶ Trash Clean Ups
- ▶ Walk and Bike to School Days
- ▶ Walk-a-thon in Screen Free Week
- ▶ Thompson Community Events: International Festival, Community Sing, Art Food Community,...

Pillar Three: Integrating Environmental and Sustainability Education; Raising awesome, powerful, change makers

- ▶ All School Events: Science Explo, Earth Week, Trash Art Maker Space in Library, Zero Waste Assemblies and Days, Community Sing
- ▶ Grade Level Curriculum: Classroom Trashformation Projects, K-1 Parent Readers, Trash Clean Ups, Recycled Textile Bags and Wampanoag Day (Wampum Belts and Green Team Pendants)
- ▶ Green Team Club: Innovation and Creativity Lab for Environmental Exploration, Education and Action
- ▶ Continuity Projects:
 - ▶ Current 4th/5th Graders' Zero Waste Campaign-2016-2018
 - ▶ 4th Graders' This is the Last Straw Campaign-2018

The image is a vertical collage. The background is composed of several overlapping, semi-transparent green triangles of varying shades, creating a dynamic, abstract pattern. A single, thin white diagonal line runs from the top left towards the bottom right. In the bottom left corner, there is a rectangular inset photograph. This photo shows a white plastic fishing tackle box with multiple compartments. Several compartments are filled with small, dark fishing lures. A green mesh bag, likely for bait, is placed on top of the box. A red and a blue fishing lure are also visible. The photo is taken from a slightly elevated angle, showing the box's contents and the surrounding wooden surface.

The image is a vertical collage. The background is composed of several overlapping, semi-transparent green triangles of varying shades, creating a dynamic, abstract pattern. A thin, white diagonal line runs from the top left towards the bottom right. In the bottom left corner, there is a photograph of a white plastic fishing tackle box. The box is open, revealing several compartments filled with fishing lures, including spinnerbaits and crankbaits. A green mesh bag, likely for bait, is also visible inside the box. The overall aesthetic is modern and nature-oriented.



2nd Grade Trash Clean Up and Audit; Ms. Dichter's Class Turns Trash into Environmental Education and Action



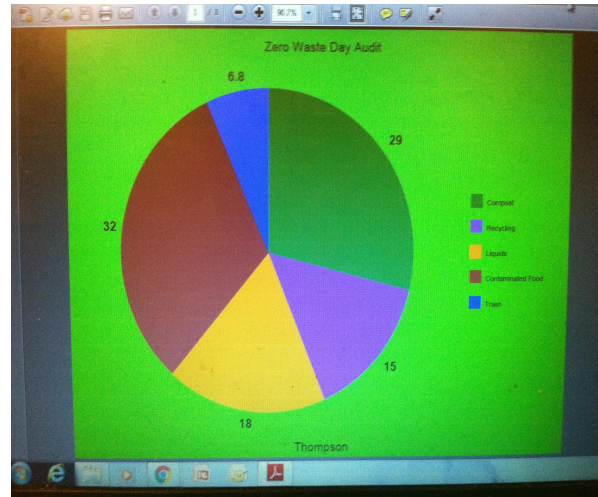
Zero Waste Campaign; Signs, Trashformations, Skits, Videos and Zero Waste Assemblies and Days

First Green Team Zero Waste Video:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=79R-0GHILyI&feature=youtu.be>

Zero Waste Results Revealed Video:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=T9tf1pljaZA&feature=youtu.be>



New Industrial Composting System

- ▶ Thompson Green Team Video about New Composting System
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xxVZGLTK80g&feature=youtu.be>

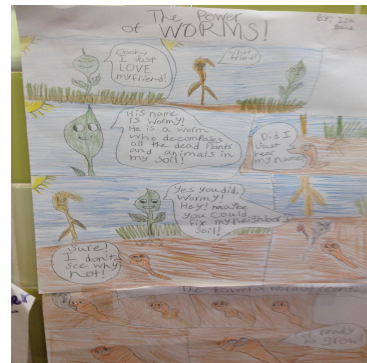
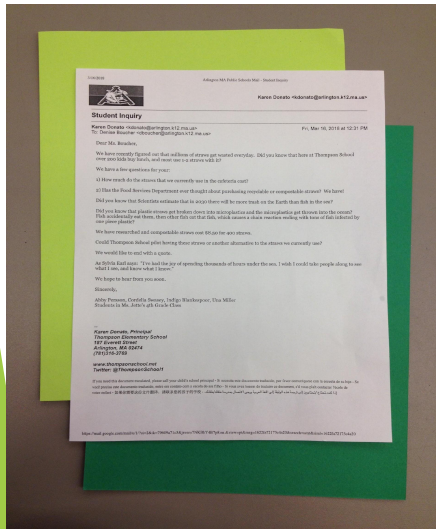
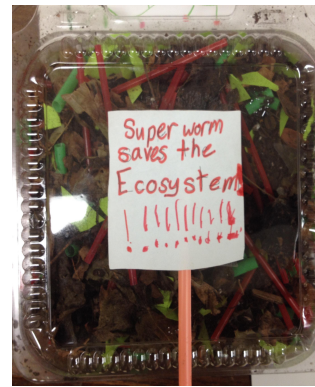


Science Explo and Arlington Ecofest Trashformation; Ecosystem Superheroes, the Decomposers: bacteria, fungi and worms, and Ecosystem Villains: Single Use Plastic

- ▶ Ms. Caplin's 1st Graders: Gut Bacteria with Super Power of food digestion
- ▶ Ms. Dichter's 2nd Graders: Forest Tree Fungi
- ▶ Green Team Club: Soil Bacteria with Super Power of Making Flower Food
- ▶ Ms. Armstrong's 4th Graders: Red Wiggler Composting Worms and Red Plastic Cafeteria Straws Villains

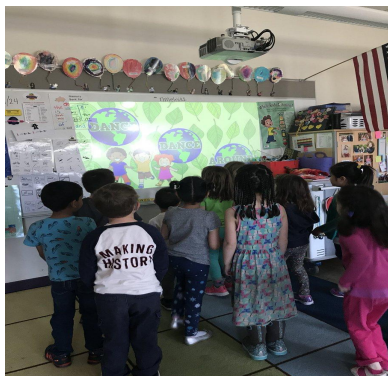


4th Graders' "This is the Last Straw" Campaign; Trashformations, Comic Strips, Essays, Letter, Skits and Zero Waste Assembly led to >55% reduction in plastic straw use in cafeteria in 3 months



Earth Week 2018:

K-1 “One Plastic Bag Books” Parent Readers , 2nd Grade Trash Clean Up, 3rd Grade Recycled T-shirt Totes, 4th Grade Skits -“This is the Last Straw” Campaign, 5th Grade Skits-Recycling and Composting, All School Zero Waste Assembly and Day



2017 Green Team Integration into Third Grade Curriculum

