



# GREEN GLANCE

Powell River School District Sustainability Education Newsletter

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**GREEN GLANCE**  
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## Speaker Martin Leblanc Presents to Powell River Teachers

The Sustainable Schools Committee (SSC) is working collaboratively with Laurie Andrews and the Professional Development Committee to bring speaker Martin Leblanc to Powell River to present to teachers during the January 31, 2011 District Professional Development Day.

As Vice-President of the Child and Nature Network, (C&NN) Martin Leblanc is dedicated to getting young people outside! Martin works alongside C&NN President Richard Louv also known for his groundbreaking novel *Last Child in the Woods*. Together, Martin and Richard spend much of their time spreading an urgent message about the need to expose young people to the outdoors for the sake of both human and planetary health.

Martin is an incredibly eloquent, inspirational advocate for connecting youth with the outdoors. Addressing concerns related to Nature Deficit Disorder, Martin comments on the impacts of a generation left inside.

In addition to his work with C&NN, Martin is the US National Youth and Special Projects Director for the Sierra Club. In this role, Martin oversees the organization's youth programs and special projects related to non-traditional partnerships to connect children to the outdoors.

As a leading advocate for efforts relating to children and nature at the local, state and regional level, Martin works closely with the Obama Administration's "Let's Move" initiative on childhood

obesity, as well as the 2010 White House "America's Great Outdoors" campaign.

A founder of C&NN's Natural Leaders Network ([www.naturalleaders.org](http://www.naturalleaders.org)) Martin heads the initiative to encourage young people to become leaders of the children and nature movement. A passionate speaker, he has presented to over 30 organizations in the United States and Canada, inspiring audiences throughout North America.

Martin will be presenting at the District Professional Development Day on January 31, 2011. For those thoroughly inspired by Martin's energy and message, he will also be offering a smaller breakout session in the afternoon. On behalf of the SSC and ProD, we hope you enjoy!

By Brae Mayenburg  
Grade 7 Student  
Edgehill Elementary

## Lights Out Campaign

For the second year, Edgehill Elementary has been working with students to help motivate them to save electricity by promoting a "Turn off the light" competition. The classrooms from kindergarten to Grade 7 can all participate by turning off the lights whenever they move to a different room, or during recess and lunch. At the start

of the campaign last year, 50% of classes had lights out during the lunch time when everyone was eating. By June, 2010, 76 % of classes on average had lights out.

We have student volunteers to check classrooms and write down the current state of the lighting. So far, almost every

time we check the lights, all classes have been smart with their electricity! During our recent assembly on Nov 3, Edgehill's Green Team showed us a presentation to encourage all of us to go green, save the environment and turn off the lights. They inspired us to save the environment, save power and save our earth, one switch at a time.

## Inspired by Autumn

Oh green leaves! How you sit perched in the sky.  
 Your veins bulge out for what keeps you alive,  
 A strategic move to suck the sun dry,  
 Chemical change that allow us to thrive.  
 Oh orange leaves! How you rest on thy bed.  
 Your breathing is shallow- a sign of death,  
 Nutrients flourish from those that are dead,  
 Your last step will soon take nature's first breath.  
 Oh black leaves! Evolving from humankind.  
 I think you can hear Mother Nature weep,  
 With the riches of oil your steams do bind,  
 In the hands of corporations you keep.  
 Perhaps nature has truly been ransacked,  
 If man is to survive we need to act.

By Charlotte Bowes



### DID YOU KNOW...



Children with attention-deficit disorder have fewer symptoms in natural settings. When surrounded by trees and animals, they are less likely to have behavioural problems and are better able to focus on a particular task.

# Gearing Up for Carbon Neutral

Did you know there are twelve million six-hundred and fifty-thousand registered cars in Canada. How many crowd the streets of Powell River? For a town with a population of twenty thousand and a distance of only fifty-four kilometers, spanning from the southern point of Saltery Bay to the northern point of Lund, Powell River could have less cars on the road. This is just what Brooks Secondary School students intend to target with their “bike to school campaign”.

Brooks Secondary school student Michael Brinton, along with the support of the student lead environmental club, Students for Environmental Action (S.E.A), have launched a school wide campaign which challenges students to get into top physical condition by reducing their impact through coming to school self-propelled. This project was started a month ago headed up by Brinton ¾

a cycling enthusiast who works at the local bicycle shop Suncoast Cycles. He, along with S.E.A has challenged the student body at Brooks to bike to school as many days a week as possible. Upon successfully commuting to and from school carbon free three days a week, students are provided with a token for a free meal in the school’s cafeteria. This encourages students to ride at minimum three out of the five days. What inspires them to exceed the three day challenge is the aspiration to win a commuter bike which has been generously funded by the Sustainable Schools Committee and is being subsidized in cost by Suncoast Cycles. Each time a student commutes to school they sign in on a check-in sheet in the school office where they supply basic information along with the total distance of their commute. At the end of each week, Brinton determines the recipients of the lunch

cards, enters the names into the grand prize draw, and tabulates the amount of kilometers travelled self-propelled. This ambitious project is going to be the basis and a key component in Brooks Secondary School’s Green Games video submission (Canadian wide competition where schools compete to be awarded money for “being green”). It is also going to serve as a platform to which students will challenge other students across Canada to see who can plug in the most miles by getting to school carbon neutral. Sure the number of registered cars in Canada is currently twelve million six-hundred and fifty-thousand but through projects similar to this one the generations of the future are sure to beat down that number in no time.

By Alyssa Stapleton  
 Chair of SEA  
 Brooks Secondary School



**BCgreen**  
 GAMES

For more info, contact:  
[info@bcgreengames.ca](mailto:info@bcgreengames.ca)  
 Visit: [www.bcgreengames.ca](http://www.bcgreengames.ca)  
 Contact your school SSC representative to access your 1/2 day release time!

## The SSC Offers 1/2 Day Release Time

The Sustainable Schools Committee is pleased to again offer 1/2 day release time to teachers who register a project in the BC Green Games. This province-wide competition for students in Kindergarten to Grade 12 is designed to motivate action, enable sharing, reward and celebrate the efforts of schools in BC. Document and share your students' success stories online and be eligible to win - over \$50,000 in prize money will be awarded to schools! The registration deadline has been extended so register your project today!

# THE SEA REPORT: GARBAGE-FREE IS THE WAY TO BE

On Thursday October 14<sup>th</sup> Brooks Secondary School's cafeteria was transformed into a landfill. On this day staff and students were blissfully bombarded with the stench of two days worth of decaying garbage collected from all the garbage bins within the high school.

The two student run clubs that started this initiative were the Students for Environmental Action (S.E.A), and the Interact club. The amount of trash produced by the school over the period of two days was an easy

twenty plus bags which sadly is right on par with the average annual production of 1.1 tons of trash per Canadian each year. In the cafeteria the trash was organized into four piles, trash, compost, take-out containers, and recycling. The large majority of trash consisted of items that could be composted, recycled, or avoided.

The informal lunch time setting of the garbage sort encouraged many students to get involved in dialogue on a problem that is

nationwide. This was the perfect demonstration to tie in with one of S.E.A's long-term projects; waste reduction. This is a project that is being supported by the school cafeteria who is offering an environmental discount to students who choose to supply their own re-usable take-out containers and cutlery for hot lunches. The future of Brooks Secondary school looks bright, as garbage-free is the way to be.

By Alyssa Stapleton  
Chair of SEA  
Brooks Secondary School

**EXCELLENT RESOURCE ON WASTE! (FREE)**

**Earth Issues: Our Lifestyles and the Environment: An Environmental Education Manual for Children Grades K Through 5 (free PDF).**

<http://cvrd.bc.ca/documents/Engineering%20Services/Solid%20Waste/Education%20and%20Outreach/Manual%20Feb%2021%20LR.PDF>

**Cowichan Valley Regional District, BC.**

## Student Reflects on Learning at Sea to Sky Outdoor School

*To the Sustainable Schools Committee,*

*Thank you so much for your generosity in providing funds for me to attend the 2010 Sea to Sky Leadership School. I greatly enjoyed attending this program, and was able to become a better leader and teammate as our group worked together in discovering our world in a new way and enacting change to better our communities. I was inspired to act more productively after four days of learning about the Green Star, talking to local leaders in the community of Gibsons, and participating in eye-opening activities led by many enthusiastic people at Sea to Sky. I am happy to bring these new-found skills home to further the transition of schools and this city into being a greener, more environmentally conscious place. I think the work that you all do is exciting to be a part of, and this leadership school is definitely a stepping stone for me to becoming a more effective citizen of Brooks Secondary School and Powell River.*

*Thank you again,  
Krista Cawley*



[www.seatosky.bc.ca/](http://www.seatosky.bc.ca/)

## Edgehill's New Critter Proof Compost

Beside the front steps at Edgehill School a large square pile of rocks has just been assembled. It is a Critter-Proof compost bin for Edgehill students to place their food refuse in, rather than other various places around the school grounds or in the trash.

This new Edgehill compost bin was created thanks to stone mason Laurie Chambers and his assistant

Monique. He also created the new compost container at Henderson with the assistance of several students at the eco-convention this past February. Edgehill students and staff helped collect the rocks used in the stone compost bin. The project is funded by the School District 47 Sustainable Schools Committee.

The first load weighed a whopping

20 kg! It is a great addition to Edgehill School, and will definitely be well used by all Edgehill students. When leaves, sand and soil are added into the mix, the smell will be reduced. Already it is being used to hold the students' food waste, and though the smell around the perimeter of the container is rather pungent, Edgehill's compost is far better there than in a garbage dump.



By Clancy Sindlinger  
Grade 7 Student  
Edgehill Elementary



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**Sustainability and Eco-Education**

**Supporting students  
in reinventing their world!**



## **Sustainability Games Online** [http://learningforsustainability.net/internet/online\\_games.php](http://learningforsustainability.net/internet/online_games.php)

Computer games don't have to be only about shooting enemies and getting through complicated mazes - now they can help students learn about how things like business decisions and the generation of electricity affect the environment.

### MySustHouse games

<<http://www.mysusthouse.org/game.html>>

There are two games here. The first lets you explore ways to create a more sustainable environment. The second challenges you to build a sustainable house. It also has an introduction to sustainability.

### Electrocity

<<http://www.electrocity.co.nz/>>

ElectroCity was developed to increase public awareness – particularly among students – of the basic "common knowledge" needed to discuss energy topics

such as: How is energy generated? How much does it cost? How does it affect the environment? That is, the terms and concepts of the energy industry and the dilemmas that go along with it. ElectroCity is made available by Genesis Energy, a major generator and retailer of energy in New Zealand.

### The Great Green Web Game

<<http://go.ucsusa.org/game/>>

Test your knowledge of how consumer choices affect the environment. This is a quiz game developed by the Union of Concerned Scientists. Mainly aimed at North American consumers, but will be of interest to others.

### BT Better Business Games

<<http://www.btplc.com/societyandenvironment/Businessgame/>>  
The first is Better Business Choices which gives you the opportunity to build

your business from scratch. Will you make the right decisions about market conditions and select the right products, suppliers, energy and other vital ingredients to make sure your business survives in the long term? The second is Better Business Dilemmas which aims to simulate what it can be like to manage social and environmental issues in a business - are you up to the challenge? Each game lasts for approximately thirty minutes.

### PowerUp

<<http://www.powerupthegame.org/home.html>>

A 3D, action strategy game from IBM ... Save Planet Helios from ecological devastation! PowerUp is a free, online, multiplayer game that allows students to work together in teams to investigate the rich, 3D game environment and learn about the environmental disasters that threaten the game world and its inhabitants.