



SERT Flash

School Energy and Recycling Team

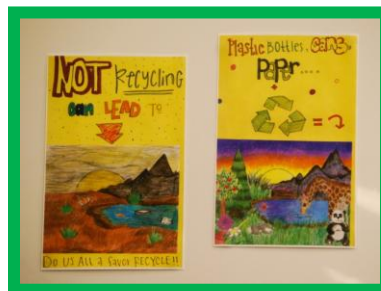


John F. Kennedy High School Students Build Green School Club



John F. Kennedy High School Students (L-R)
Alfena Johnson, Brian Chambers, Amanda Dotson, Mary Guenther, and Jainaba Fye

Raising awareness with regard to the environment is the main objective for John F. Kennedy High School's (JFKHS) **Green Schools Club**. The club promoted and conducted a school wide poster contest to get the students excited and involved with their new mission. The **Green Schools Club** thought that by having student-made posters hanging throughout the school it would help increase their recycling rates and create awareness.



John F. Kennedy High School winning posters

Congratulations go to Alfena Johnson for winning the poster contest! Alfena created two beautiful posters encouraging others to recycle. The winning poster has become the official **Green Schools Club** poster this year.

SERT staff were invited out to participate in an awards ceremony where Alfena received a certificate as well as a small monetary gift.

Now that a winning poster has been selected and the prize given, the hope is that more students will be inspired to join the JFKHS **Green School Club** and help keep JFKHS **Green**.

Do you have a "SERT Flash" you would like to share about your SERT efforts? Please submit a photograph and paragraph about your team and you too can be featured in a future FLASH!
E-mail: SERT@mcpsmd.org
SERT Program- 240-314-1090

"It's your world...choose to conserve"



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Keepin' it Green at Paint Branch High School



Paint Branch High School is our newest high school awaiting Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED®) certification. LEED is a rating system for buildings that measures energy and environmental performance.

When a LEED-certified building is delivered, the occupants engage in energy and environmentally-aware behavior that enhances the efficiency of the building.

One of the many green features of this building is outdoors—the parking lot features designated preferred parking spaces for carpoolers and hybrid vehicle drivers demonstrating Montgomery County Public Schools' commitment to keeping our environment clean and reducing carbon emissions. By incentivizing these parking spaces, we are promoting the use of alternative fuel vehicles and carpooling while reducing pollution and our carbon footprint. This is a feature everyone can strive to use. These special benefits make a difference when engaging occupants into environmentally-aware behavior.

Another exciting feature is the green rooftop. During the summer months, the temperature of a conventional flat rooftop can soar up to 140°F – hot enough to fry an egg. By contrast, a green roof is much cooler and reduces the demand for air conditioning. Green rooftops are also environmentally beneficial as they are a pervious surface and absorb rainwater that would otherwise become stormwater runoff. The green roof is accessible by students and staff through an Art classroom, and is used as an outdoor classroom extension, providing an opportunity to experience the benefits of a green rooftop.

The school also is equipped with a geexchange heating and cooling system. Geexchange systems heat and cool the school by pumping water through a closed loop system into the earth. Basically, this system uses the constant temperature of the earth as a heat source in the winter and a heat sink during the summer – versus outside air. Each classroom has the ability to adjust their classroom temperatures with individual controls providing a variance of 3-4 degrees.

Some other green features include: low emissivity treated windows, motion/occupancy-sensory lighting, recycled content playground equipment, rain gardens, white reflective (albedo) rooftop, low-flow water fixtures, and light-emitting diode (LED) exterior lighting.

To keep the building green and efficient, we rely on our students and staff to be environmental stewards. The exceptional Green Team at Paint Branch High School conducts various activities around the school to promote energy conservation and increase recycling awareness. The team collects recyclables twice every week. The students participate in making energy and recycling posters. The energy "Police" conduct routine inspections to ensure that computers and lights are turned off when class is not in session. The team also runs 30-second Public Service Announcements in the morning to further reinforce the importance of conservation.

In support of the LEED application, the Green Team is busy engaging the building users, students, staff, and community members into environmentally-aware behavior. Way to go Green Team!



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“Take Me Out to Travilah Elementary School”



Mrs. Carol Knoblach, 4th grade Teacher and courtyard at Travilah Elementary School

It's the bottom of the ninth inning; score is tied; two outs; bases are loaded; the count is 3 balls/ 2 strikes! Carol Knoblach is at the plate! The pitcher throws a low fast ball. “Pow” Carol Knoblach hits it out of the park!

Okay-okay, I'm not talking about baseball but, Carol Knoblach does knock it out of the park in terms of energy conservation and recycling at Travilah ES. Mrs. Knoblach is a 4th grade teacher and a true “Greenie” at heart.

Mrs. Knoblach has 22 students on her SERT team. They meet as a group once a month and they do a variety of green activities in between their meetings like:

- collecting all the recycling from the building weekly
- collecting composting from lunch and using the compost for their organic flower bed
- implementing “No Trash Friday” in the cafeteria
- leaving friendly reminders to staff when lights are left on in classrooms and work rooms
- collecting all the aluminum foil covers from lunch trays for recycling

Mrs. Knoblach takes going “Green” to a whole new level. She is currently working on getting Travilah ES recertified as a “Maryland Green School.” One of her special projects included applying for a grant to install a pond in the courtyard.

Thank you Mrs. Knoblach for leading the “green” initiatives at Travilah Elementary School.

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