

P.A.W.S. 2015 Grant Recipients

Elmwood High School

The Green Giants of Elmwood have no shortage of ideas and activities that they would like to tackle. They currently coordinate a comprehensive recycling program and they've begun a composting program and started a school garden to which they are tirelessly committed. They are also involved in various initiatives to raise awareness of sustainability issues and how they can be addressed school wide. Recently the Green Giants have been looking at tackling the problem of a lack of outdoor space for the students.

"As our mission statements imply the Green Giants want to foster a passion and love for being outdoors and nature. Elmwood has a great courtyard area that we would like to convert to an outdoor learning area. In its current state, we do not think the outside of Elmwood coincides with the beliefs for the sustainability happening inside the school. While the Green Giants and staff promote students begin outdoors and getting "fresh air", there is nowhere for students to sit outside during breaks and at lunch hour, nor a space where teachers can take their classroom outdoors. Students are often found sitting in the halls or cafeteria during these times because of seating availability. If we were able to create a space for students to enjoy this would create so many avenues for outdoor education and endorsing the environment."

—Green Giants

The P.A.W.S. funding received from Take Pride Winnipeg! will be put towards more outdoor seating, native plants and/or vegetables for the gardens, top soil, and an adequate number of waste and recycling bins for the courtyard. This improved space will not only provide opportunities for increased awareness of nature, the environment, and ecological processes, but it will ultimately lead to healthier, happier students who are able to engage in more physical activity and gain exposure to more varied learning experiences when circumstances do not permit field trips or participation in extra-curriculars.

General Wolfe School

The Green Team at General Wolfe are certainly a busy bunch! In just the past year they have taken part in a gardening workshop, held a walk to school week, celebrated Waste Reduction Week, hosted a speaker from Oak Hammock Marsh, and were instrumental in starting up community gardens in the surrounding area.

The P.A.W.S. funds would be used to re-establish some of the gardens on school grounds that were dismantled due to a construction project. Partnerships are already in place with the Daniel McIntyre St. Matthews Community Association and a local seniors group to help make this a reality. In addition, General Wolfe has plans to build compost bins to start a composting program which would help to generate soil for the school and community gardens. Any vegetables grown in the school gardens will be donated to local families in need. As an added bonus, while these students are taking on these activities they will also be meeting curriculum outcomes in science, social studies, and language arts!

Ecole George V School

George V has a large ESD Club that not only includes the middle school students but is instituted school wide with participants in Grades 1 all the way through to Grade 8. Some recent developments for the

club include a new “Green Section” in their library, a weekly meeting where Grades 4-6 students help the Grades 1-3 make crafts from recycled materials, 32 large potted plants in the school (including avocado trees!), a contribution to the school’s monthly newsletter, a comprehensive recycling program and a Compost Corner that grows by 50 pounds of compost each week! The waste reduction occurring at the school is so tremendous that they hardly need trash cans anymore.

The main issue facing the ESD Club was that the students and staff have become so good at composting they are running out of space for it! The club has purchased 3 new compost bins for their “Corner”, and plan to make improvement to the fence that encloses the area. They also take compost from the neighbouring church and the day care so the additional bins will be put to good use. All of this compost will come in handy as George V beautifies their school grounds in preparation for their Centennial Celebration this spring!

Ecole River Heights School

The main goals of the River Heights Green Team are to reduce waste by encouraging recycling, reuse of household items for art and projects and encouraging more efficient use of energy at the school. They aspire to eventually get a solar panel for the school to generate cleaner energy. Right now they are a small group, but they are growing and have still been able to accomplish many things such as securing 10 new recycling bins for inside and outside the school, making Green Tip of the Week announcements over the PA, and getting the school administration to switch from using Styrofoam products for the lunch program to recycled sugar cane products.

The funds from the P.A.W.S. grant program will help the Green Team with travel costs so that they may attend the 2015 Sustainability Conference at Sisler High School. They also purchased prizes and incentives to give to students throughout their Earth Week activities which included a school litter cleanup, a litter-less lunch challenge, and encouraging the student body to bring cutlery from home rather than buying plastic forks and spoons from the lunch program. Lastly, a school-wide composting program and garden is in the works for this spring. The grant money will help the Green Team to purchase the necessary supplies to get this off the ground. Ultimately the Green Team would like to get the whole school thinking green, not just those that are members of the group.