



S.E.E.K. Newsletter

Sharing Environmental Education Knowledge

Volume 3, Number 1 - Fall 2008

S.E.E.K. newsletter is published by the Solid Waste Division and Surface and Stormwater Management Program of Kitsap County Public Works

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Inside this issue...

Meet the Educators



Classroom Presentations



World Water Monitoring Day



America Recycles Day



National Public Works Week



Teacher Workshop

Greetings!

Our goal is to find ways to teach students the importance of conserving resources while giving teachers the support and materials needed to integrate environmental education into classroom curriculum through presentations, hands-on activities, and field trips.

Meet the Educators



Pat Kirschbaum has been with Kitsap County Public Works Surface and Stormwater Management Program since 1995 and has a Master's degree in education. Pat is responsible for school and youth education for stormwater programs, including classroom presentations, storm drain stenciling, and the fundraiser car wash program. Pat is a Project WET curriculum instructor and is the E3 Washington Representative for the Kitsap Region.



Jo Meints has a Master's degree in elementary education with an emphasis in earth sciences, and brings 11 years teaching experience. She is responsible for K-12 education for solid waste programs, including waste reduction, recycling, buying recycled, litter, household hazardous waste, and composting. Jo is also available to help schools implement or refine their recycling programs.

FREE Classroom Presentations

Kitsap County Public Works Solid Waste and Surface and Stormwater Management Divisions offer local teachers FREE classroom presentations that help fulfill EALR and GLE requirements while instilling in students the importance of protecting and preserving our planet's resources. Our trained educators can bring these presentations to your classroom or you may borrow materials to complete the activities with your students yourself.

Solid Waste Division:

Topics include worms and worm bins, recycling, litter, hazardous waste, and solid waste management. A full listing of presentations is available at www.kitsapgov.com/sw under "Students and Teachers". You may contact Jo Meints, jmeints@co.kitsap.wa.us, 360-337-4568 for more information or to schedule a presentation.

Surface and Stormwater Management:

Topics include the water cycle, runoff, watersheds, the impact of impervious (hard) surfaces on our waterways, and human activities that can impact water quality. A full listing of presentations is available at www.kitsapgov.com/sswm/outreach.htm. Click on "Water Related Classroom Presentations". Contact Pat Kirschbaum, pkirschbaum@co.kitsap.wa.us, 360-307-4278 for more information and to schedule a presentation.

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World Water Monitoring Day

Involve your students in an international project to monitor local streams and help build public awareness of and involvement in protecting our water resources. Held annually between September 15 and October 15, the program engages communities in monitoring the condition of local water bodies. Students will test a local stream for dissolved oxygen, pH, turbidity, and temperature and then enter that data on an international database. Assistance identifying local streams and free equipment is available by contacting Pat Kirschbaum, pkirschbaum@co.kitsap.wa.us, 360-307-4278.



America Recycles Day

November 15, 2008 is a national recycling awareness day celebrated since 1997. As part of our Kitsap County celebration, public, private, and home-schooled K-8 students are invited to participate in the America Recycles Day poster contest. Entries must be received by Kitsap County Public Works, Solid Waste Division, no later than 4:00 pm, Friday, October 17, 2008. Winning posters will be featured in the Kitsap Sun newspaper and online at www.kitsapgov.com/sw. Contest rules and classroom presentations are available online as well as supplemental resources for teachers, including activity sheets for students. Visit our website at www.kitsapgov.com/sw, click on "America Recycles Day".

Lending Library

Looking for that perfect book to go along with your worm lesson? Trying to discover interesting non-fiction books about recycling, garbage, and landfills? We have a lending library with books, magazines, videos, and curriculum guides spreading across these solid waste issues as well as many easy reading environmental books for students. Visit our website at www.kitsapgov.com/sw and choose the Lending Library heading for a complete list of materials available for you to borrow.

Save the Dates

National Public Works Week, May 17-23, 2009-Field trip opportunity

National Public Works Week (NPWW) is a celebration of the tens of thousands of men and women in North America who provide and maintain the infrastructure and services collectively known as public works. As part of our local celebration, Kitsap County Public Works invites local 3rd-6th grade classrooms to the Public Works Annex in the Olympic View Industrial Park for a day of exciting, interactive presentations to see what our local Public Works employees are responsible for on a daily basis. How do traffic signals work? Why and how are storm drains cleaned? Where does our garbage go? How are signs made? These are just a few of the questions that are addressed. The day is limited to 6 classrooms, so keep your eye out for more information in early 2009!

Teacher Workshop, Summer 2009

Open the Door to Environmental Education is a local workshop offered each summer by Kitsap County Public Works and Kitsap PUD. Teachers learn about and participate in local resources available and have an opportunity to brainstorm with other teachers incorporating environmental awareness and activities into their classrooms. Clock hours and SPU credit is available. Contact Pat Kirschbaum, pkirschbaum@co.kitsap.wa.us, 360-307-4278 to be included on the mailing list for the 2009 workshop.