

Eco-Wise Newsletter

February 2019



Our Commitment

In the Richmond School District, we know the actions that we take when will impact our natural world. We are committed to helping our earth by continuing to save energy, water and reduce waste. If everyone does their part each day, we can make a big difference in moving us all toward a greener future. Get involved and lighten your footprint.

This is the second of three Eco-Wise Newsletters that will be distributed during the 2018-2019 school year. We will inform you of the upcoming events and will invite you to play a part in being Eco-Wise.

We are looking forward to building a community, supporting it and being an Energy & Sustainability knowledge hub for the staff, parents and students at SD38.



REaDY Summit 2019 | April 8 | Steveston-London

REaDY Summit is a youth focused environmental event for Grade 6-7 students and Green Team members that promotes environmental education and provides leadership and networking opportunities for Richmond students. A dedicated team of secondary students take on a variety of roles in organizing and running the event, including providing workshops, coordinating social media and registration.

The theme of this year's REaDY Summit is: #Y.E.S. Earth: Youth Empowerment for a Sustainable Earth. The Summit will take place on Monday, April 8 and will be hosted at Steveston-London Secondary School.

Want to get involved?

Speech contest - Participants (grades 2-12) must prepare a 2 minute speech connected to the theme #Y.E.S. Earth and answer the prompt "Imagine Richmond in a Sustainable Future." The speech contest will be held on Thursday, March 7, 2019 from 3:30 - 5:30 at Richmond City Hall. Winners will present their speeches at the REaDY Summit on April 8.

District Conference



Richmond District Conference
February 15, 2019
H. J. CAMBIE Secondary School

The District Conference is an excellent opportunity to get information on environmental sustainability and Eco-Wise programs/initiatives. **This event is only for SD38 staff.** You can find us at 2 sessions:

MakerSpace: Gym B, Side 1 - Session 2 and 3: Eco-Wise team and REED38 (Richmond Environmental Educators) will be hosting a joint table.

FLASH CHATS: - Library - Session 3: City of Richmond, BC Hydro and FortisBC will be hosting 15-min interactive presentations about their curriculum and educational programs.

Want to join Eco-Wise programs? Contact: energy@SD38.bc.ca

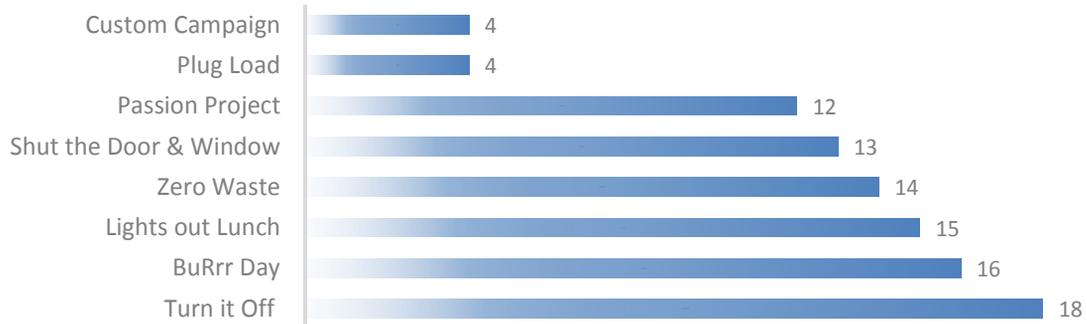
Eco-Wise Newsletter

February 2019



Eco-Wise Grant Updates

There are 25 schools participating Eco-Wise Grants this year with a total of 84 Eco-Wise Campaigns and 12 Passion Projects! 10 schools have proactively taken leadership in Eco-Wise by implementing 5 Campaigns/Projects, they are: Burnett, Cambie, McNair, Cook, Hamilton, Gilmore, McNeely, Mitchell, Steves, and Talmey. Bellow chart is the Eco-Wise grants in 2018/2019.



Flexible Plastic Packaging Campaign

The District and City of Richmond has developed a new collection program to promote recycling of Flexible Plastic Packaging. Each school may apply to get an incentive of \$250. The campaign will be run from April 8th to May 3rd.

More details for registration? Please download the Campaign Application Form [here](#).

Plug Load Campaign

Plug loads include everything from microwaves to coffee makers and table lamps. In total, 5% of the energy used by the school district comes from plug loads. As such, we would encourage not to bring your personal devices to the schools.

The District's Eco-Wise Team is conducting plug load audits in several schools to identify energy wasted and safety issues by electrical devices in standby mode or "off" mode.

Zero Waste Campaign

The Zero Waste Campaign is targeted at reducing the amount of garbage being sent to landfills. On average, our waste diversion rate is 40%, so 60% of waste that is generated in SD38 is buried in landfills.

Currently the District's Eco-Wise Team is working with the Green Teams over ten secondary schools to improve waste diversion rates.

Want to join Eco-Wise programs? Contact: energy@SD38.bc.ca

Eco-Wise Newsletter



February 2019

Outdoor Classrooms

Many schools now have outdoor classrooms and educators are regularly taking students outdoors to connect with their spaces and experience the natural world in a variety of ways through a variety of subject areas.

Several elementary schools are in the process of planning outdoor classroom spaces. Staff members are keen to create spaces that will allow their students to connect to nature in meaningful ways that tie in with our curriculum and support student learning.

It is wonderful to see so many educators committed to helping students develop a deep appreciation for our natural world and to our grounds department for creating beautiful outdoor learning spaces.

This year few of our schools are participating in [Butterflyway Schools](#) which is recognized by the David Suzuki Foundation for creating Butterflyway gardens (pollinator gardens). Be a Butterflyway Ranger! You'll make a real difference for critical species humans depend on for food and well-being every day. Check David Suzuki website [here](#).



Energy Champions, BC Lions

Seven elementary schools have successfully secured the FortisBC - Energy Champions campaign this year: Homma, Mitchell, McKinney, Kingswood, McNeely, Steves and Garden City. During the 45-minute interactive assembly, two BC Lions players discuss the positive choices youth can make to affect their environment.

Last year, the students at Kidd, Woodward and Hamilton really enjoyed the activities brought by BC Lions players. There are a limited number of BC Lions visits in Richmond a year. Contact us if you want to register for this exciting event in 2019-2020.

BC Green Games

Richmond Secondary School is leading participation in the BC Green Games for Richmond School District by submitting their project for Waste Reduction Week. The project is on the site and voting is open. Continue to check back to the BC Green Games site regularly for other Richmond schools that may be participating. Last year winners are:

- Richmond Secondary - [E-Waste Collection Week!](#)
- Ferris Elementary - [E\(co\)volution: Environmental](#)

The deadline for submission of projects is March 1, 2019. Winners will be announced on April 4, 2019.

Want to join Eco-Wise programs? Contact: energy@SD38.bc.ca

Eco-Wise Newsletter

February 2019



RICHMOND SD38
ECO-WISE

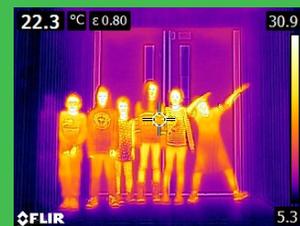
Featured stories at Steves Elementary - *Written by Dawn Lessoway*

Saving energy is a TEAM effort here at Steves elementary.

Students from classes in grade one to grade six challenged themselves to try a number of sustainability campaigns and activities this year:

- **Lights Off Pizza Days** - turning off lights every second Friday on Pizza day
- **Winter Holiday Unplugging** - Grade one/two/three reminded us to unplug before winter holiday with handmade pictures
- **Recycling** - one class put up posters reminding us which bin to use when recycling; our Green Team sorts misplaced items; pen and markers are collected for recycling at STAPLES; our Office Administration started a battery recycling program.
- **Door Protectors** - our second year measuring heat loss using a thermal camera (see pictures to the right). We learned a lot, including how a lot of natural gas is wasted when we open doors.

Our students are the driving force behind many of our activities, reminding each other and even the teachers of ways to save our Earth. We're looking forward to running more activities this Winter and Spring.



"We need to help our planet and recycle so the earth will be healthy."

Eco-Wise Program Timeline

Launching Flexible Plastic Packaging Campaign
Deadline for submission: Feb 22
Global School Play Day: Feb 6

Feb

REaDY Summit: Apr 8
Eco-Wise Café: Apr 24
Wrap up your Eco-Wise Campaigns
Check out Eco-Wise Newsletter
Earth Day: Apr 22

Mar

Welcome to Spring Break! Run the
Holiday Shutdown
Eco-Wise Café: Mar 06- Plastic Oceans

Apr

May

Submit invoices and pictures of Eco-Wise
Campaigns
Flexible Plastic Packaging Campaign wrap-up

Jun

Eco-Wise Celebration: Jun 5
Thank you all for your great efforts!

Want to join Eco-Wise programs? Contact: energy@SD38.bc.ca