



# HAPPY HOLLOW SCHOOL

63 PEQUOT ROAD  
WAYLAND, MASSACHUSETTS 01778-3421

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June 8, 2009

Dr. Gary Burton  
Wayland Public Schools  
41 Cochituate Road  
Wayland, MA 01778

Dr. Burton,

Since my last memo of June 11, 2008 regarding the efforts of the Greening Initiative for the district, we have taken a huge step forward to centralize the efforts and coordinate the many isolated endeavors that are ongoing throughout the district. We have formed a task force much like the ones that have moved the district technology efforts forward and brought about a comprehensive look at all day kindergarten programs. The task force is comprised of parents from across the schools, school personnel, students and an interested party trying to begin a town garden and compost program. I am happy to report that since the formation of the group, we are able to respond to the following questions asked by Mr. Malcom Astley of the Wayland School Committee regarding our steps for moving the district forward to becoming more conscientious in our efforts to be responsible in the impact that we have upon our town environment.

1. What are we doing about cultivating precise, thorough habits of recycling and adjusting our carbon footprints in classrooms and school buildings?
2. How are we coordinating with home practices?
3. How are we connected with Green Committees in town and among other organizations (civic, educational, environmentally oriented and religious)?
4. How are we connected with and utilizing school habitat trails, town trails and lands, gardening, farming and conservation efforts?

## **Summary of Greening Group FY08 Efforts as a Background to Where We Are Now:**

We explored Gary Burton's suggestion about a poster contest with prizes, and Jim & Cheryl's conversation about wanting to explore a non-competitive approach.

Connie Burgess suggested that we gather information about what is already happening in the schools/community, decide what can be improved and then identify a goal towards which the children/community can work; i.e., three questions: 1.) what are we doing now?; 2.) where should we be (goal)?; 3.) what can we do & how?

Connie offered to do a quick search to gather information about what is happening in other towns. This might prove to be an excellent resource and save us a lot of time.

The following was a partial list of the many efforts already ongoing around the district:

- \*All levels recycle in a visible way to staff and students, including paper collection in specially marked containers and around lunch items.

- \*The middle school has several endeavors going on, including moving from styrofoam lunch trays to cardboard made out of recyclable material. This initiative was under the direction of Patrick Conway.

- \*A Health and Wellness Committee has developed at the elementary school level and parents meet monthly about nutrition, healthy living and environmentally sound practices. They had a farmers' market to promote eating healthy foods that were not processed in any way that would hurt the environment, including breads and other foods that would not use any ingredients that had preservatives or other unnatural elements. They were working on getting a grant to move their efforts forward and liked the idea of joining a greening initiative in a more formal way during the upcoming school year.

- \*The Health and Wellness Committee has been working with Cheryl Judd, Director of Food Services for Wayland Schools, to partner in a way that would promote healthier eating and exercise habits. They have already done some work on getting environmentally friendly products on the lunch menus that come from Lanni Farms. This increased the amount of whole grain products as well as added choices such as black beans, rice and hummus to school menus. Changing eating and lifestyle habits is seen by this committee as an integral part of helping students understand respect for the earth and how humans spend their time on the earth.

- \*The Wayland Middle School PTO had a demonstration perennial garden planting that focused on selecting and planting native species which required less water, less fertilizer and less fuss than the more traditional landscape plantings. Brian Brown of Linnaean Farm led the demonstration and donated the plants to the garden.

- \*Elementary schools have "Trash Busting Teams", or the like, that pick up and clean up trash.

- \*Happy Hollow has an annual "Spring Fling" time for cleaning up and refurbishing the garden and grounds ~ suspended this year due to the window replacement project but still has high interest.

- \*All schools have parent/student involvement around tending to the planting and beautification of the schools.

\*Elementary schools participated in a fitness challenge that included ideas for healthy living and environmentally sound practices during the challenge time.

\*Elementary schools and the middle school frequently participate in the annual Earth Day Bag promotion. This involves having the students design grocery bags for one of the two local grocery stores that include drawings and messages about recycling, reducing and reusing. Shoppers from the town receive the bags when they buy their groceries and often times write notes to the schools thanking them for their efforts on behalf of preserving our earth.

\*The town offers a recycling program and even has a place where people can drop off unwanted items so they may be taken for use by another person or family. This happens at the town recycling/processing center.

\*We introduced the Eco-Lawn that was to be donated and planted by a parent Jackson Madnick. He was to plant at both the Wayland Middle School and Happy Hollow. He planted at Happy Hollow on 6/10/08 with unresponsive results. Mr. Madnick plans to return in the summer of 2009 to replant. ~This low maintenance grass will use less water and remain green and lush without harmful fertilizers that wash into town water systems, most especially the Dudley Pond area. Mr. Madnick plans to develop an educational poster/sign that will be available to students and visitors walking by the front of the Happy Hollow School explaining the benefits to the environment and encouraging environmentally sound and responsible practices.

As the list of what is going on is still in progress, we began planning for how we can bring these efforts together in a way that cohesively celebrates what our practices are as a town/school district, and simultaneously works to keep them moving forward.

We discussed using the 3 R's – Reduce, Reuse, Recycle as a theme.

Some things that could happen in the schools:

- School meetings/assemblies. – could focus on greening efforts; children could share ideas, posters, pictures etc.

- A “Greening Wall” in each school, public safety building, town building etc.- students display posters, pictures, poems, news articles, and photos.

- Use visual representation to recognize peoples’ actions on idea of the “Kindness matters” initiative at HH .

- Develop symbol for each R that is used system-wide.

- Students make signs for around school as reminders.

We discussed ways that the initiative could be addressed through children’s involvement in media-related activities:

- BASE special activity – TV Production- Connie has 3 more shows to produce with students. Each show has 3 segments and she will encourage students to consider a segment related to greening – the outcome will be based upon student’s interest in the topic.

- HS Video Production Classes - Connie will tell Jim Mullane, WAYCAM station manager, about the initiative and discuss whether he can tie it into class projects & student assignments, e.g. interviewing Pat Morris and /or town facilities manager, public service announcements, etc.

-Pegasus – Connie works with Jim at Pegasus & they will discuss ways to include greening into their activities with children. We will talk with Christine about possibility of something along the lines of “Pegasus goes green” slogan.

-There is a course being offered to seniors that might have some application for the schools, perhaps even involving the senior group in the school initiative.

-Moving forward, it was our common belief that we should not involve any element of competition into this, but rather would encourage everyone to work together for a common purpose to convey the message that different ideas and approaches are valued.

### **FYO9 Efforts:**

**-What are we doing about cultivating precise, thorough habits of recycling and adjusting our carbon footprints in classrooms and school buildings?**

**-How are we connected with Green committees in town and among other organizations (civic, educational, environmentally oriented and religious)?**

We have formed a task force to coordinate and bring together a central steering committee to guide and monitor town progress in becoming a “green” community.

### **Members of the Task Force:**

Jim Lee, Christina Veal, Jody Brown, Anne Harris, Martha Kelley, James Karlson, Mark Karlson, Jesse Vogel, Danielle Smith, Barbara Boykin, Molly Faulkner, Mary Patterson, Heather Borghesi, Jennifer Steel, Deb Stubeda, Irene Aldorf, Kat Gundersen, Sabine von Mering

**Task Force Parent Chair:** Christina Veal

### **Task Force Mission Statement:**

The Green Initiative of the Wayland Public Schools is one of the district’s important ongoing initiatives. Therefore, we believe that our purpose is to educate, reduce and save. The Task Force will be structured into 6 smaller groups. One for each school and another for student education/learning opportunities and recommendations. Each will consist of teachers, parents, custodians and students. We will serve as a fact-finding body providing education and options to the school administration for final decisions.

**Immediate Goals:** Evaluate the current state of our 5 schools in a comprehensive manner to develop a clear focus. This should be in the form of a formative assessment audit and should be completed by the end of June, 2009.

**Longer Term Goals:** educating the community; coordinating a central recycling plan to reduce, reuse and save wherever and whenever we can; coordinating family ecology nights; planning Earth Day celebrations; work with town groups such as the town garden/compost idea to bring home and school together to form a community effort, encouraging the PTO's Cultural Enrichment Committee to bring in programs; and serving as aides in the educational process of our students throughout the grades.

### **Research on Current Recycling Management:**

Christina read the email describing the current trash and recyclable procedure from Anna Ludwig, Chair for Wayland Board of Health. The summary:

- The landfill staff (soon to be transfer station staff, July 1st) picks up the school's trash and recyclables.
- The landfill charges the school department and town municipal offices as close as possible to actual cost so it is cheaper for the landfill staff to provide the school this service.
- As the landfill is converting to a transfer station, the cost of disposing of trash (solid waste) will go up because it will be hauled off rather than buried in the landfill -- the landfill has reached capacity. This increase in cost has been passed on to the school department and other town departments. (Because the landfill is required to operate without a profit or loss, the cost to residents has also increased.)
- It still remains the most cost effective approach. We know this because in preparing for the closing of the landfill, the Board of Health obtained bids from various contractors for the cost of servicing the schools.
- In an effort to encourage decreasing solid waste and increasing recycling, the Board of Health voted to institute a PAYT program as of July 1st. There are several recycling contracts. Unfortunately, the market for recycling has plummeted. Fortunately, landfill has contracts that do not expire prior to 2011, thus the landfill generates income from recycling as opposed to paying to dispose of recycling materials. To keep operation costs down, staffing at the landfill/transfer station FY'09 and FY'10 were very lean.
- George Russell at the landfill is the best contact for recycling. If he's not available, then contact Health Director Steve Calichman.

### **Presentation of GoGreenInitiative.org**

Christina Veal introduced the task force to the [www.gogreeninitiative.org](http://www.gogreeninitiative.org) website with the focus of offering our town a partnership with a highly regarded international program. The task force viewed the schools in the country that have adopted the plan. Acton and Framingham are the closest neighboring communities who have partnered with the group. The task force briefly discussed the content and noted that many features are already established and can be tailored to our needs.

## **Learning Opportunities for Our Students:**

It was discussed that including environmental impact studies within the standing curriculum would be a long term objective as all curriculum changes must first go through the Administrative Council and curriculum directors. The [www.thegreenteam.org](http://www.thegreenteam.org) is available for individual teachers to access and in September the task force will work to have teachers pilot some of the website activities that relate to learning opportunities for students across the schools.

## **A Presentation Was Made to the Task Force on the High School Recycling Efforts by a High School Student:**

Danielle Smith, a Wayland High School student, described how she and several friends stay after school on Wednesdays and sort the bottles and cans into separate bags and then bring them out back. She is not sure if they are properly disposed of and there does not appear to be a separate plastic/can dumpster.

## **Additional Discussions**

- We are interested in meeting with a Wayland resident who owns a recycling plant.
- Anne Harris, parent, is working to help coordinate the efforts of the Wayland Energy Initiative that consists of people with green building experience.
- Jennifer Steel, parent, will contact John Moynihan, Facilities Director, to work on a district-wide cultural shift. She wants the task force to have a solid plan.
- Jim Lee, administrator, asked the group to work to establish immediate smaller, high-impact programs that will be visible to the community so that the initiative will take hold as a known value within the district and town.
- Heather Borghesi, BASE site coordinator, said she will look into grant opportunities for helping the town garden initiative.
- Jesse Vogel, middle school student, wants to work with students at the middle school to carry on some of the work that Mr. Kohn, a retired teacher, had started. The group agreed to assist in that effort by coordinating the district recycling efforts.
- Mary Patterson, staff member, offered ideas for public relations as the group moves forward.
- Pat Morris, facilities manager for the schools, is assisting in the greening audit of the schools.
- Christina Veal, parent and task group chair, is looking to use the audit to make suggestion around powering down at night, not heating with windows open, no idling zone, use buses and purchase recycled paper.

The following are the documents used for the audit:

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Hello Administrators,

I am coordinating the Green Initiative under the direction of Jim Lee. Our goal is to help reduce waste, educate our children on environmental stewardship, and save money. We serve as a fact-finding body providing education and options to the school administration for final decisions.

In order to recommend changes we need to gain a current snapshot of how each school recycles and conserves energy.

Pat Morris will direct each tour. Below are the dates. We welcome members of each school's administrative staff to join us.

Thank you for your help and cooperation. Please contact me with any questions for comments.

Sincerely,  
Christina Veal  
508-652-1903

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Hello Green Teamers,

Please take a look at the attached check list for the School Tours. Thanks go out to Jennifer Steele for creating it.

I have the following people signed up:

CLAYPIT HILL  
Mary Paterson  
Irene Altdorf  
Kat Gundersen  
Anne Harris

HAPPY HOLLOW  
Betsy West  
Jen Steele



electricity																			
windows																			
doors																			
water use																			
other																			
other																			
<b>Consumables</b>																			
paper																			
plastics																			
aluminum																			
food																			
dishware																			
print cart																			
other																			
other																			

**Human Health**

**Food** (quality, quantity, snacks, etc.)


**Air quality**


**Drinking water quality**


**Water quality** (stormwater runoff)


**Natural light** (classrooms, etc.)

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**Outdoor spaces** (natural areas, fields, pesticides, litter, etc.)


**Outdoor time** (frequency, duration)


**Transportation** (walkers, bikers, cars, busses, idling, etc.)


**Other**


**Culture**

**Kid responsibility for** (involvement with) recycling, litter, etc.


**Parental responsibility for** (involvement with) transportation, litter, etc.


**Curriculum** (??)


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- How are we connected with Green Committees in town and among other organizations (civic, educational, environmentally oriented and religious)?
  - How are we connected with and utilizing school habitat trails, town trails and lands, gardening, farming and conservation efforts?

## **Partnership Opportunity (All Information provided by the Go Green Initiative Website as part of the public domain)**

The task force would like to request that the district join the Go Green Initiative Program. The following is an introduction to the program and ways that it would benefit our school district and town:

### **The Five Principles of the Initiative:**

The Go Green Initiative comprises five principles that provide the framework for teaching environmentally responsible behaviors on campus. These principles serve as a guide for schools to evaluate every aspect of their environmental impact. Schools may implement as few as three principles in creating their own unique programs designed to address local concerns. (For a detailed discussion of the five principles of the GGI, see the **Go Green Planning Guide**).

1. **Generate compost.** This is nature's way of recycling. Through basic and worm composting programs, children learn about ecology, biology and waste reduction.
2. **Recycle everything that cannot be reused and purchase items that can be recycled.** With fast shrinking landfill space and diminishing natural resources, recycling has never been more important. Recycling items such as paper, plastic, aluminum and ink cartridges reduces toxic greenhouse gas emissions and conserves energy. Manage E-waste by finding creative solutions to divert obsolete computer parts, cell phones and other such devices from the waste stream. Schools that recycle provide much-needed materials to manufacturers who produce recycled products.
3. **Educate students, teachers and parents on environmentally-responsible behavior.** When students, teachers and parents work together to make their schools environmentally friendly, they are more likely to take the same behaviors into their off campus lives. Our goal is to create environmentally-responsible school communities throughout the nation and across the globe.
4. **Evaluate the environmental impact of every activity.** Identify products and practices that could threaten the health of children and the world around them. Consider improving the campus environment with activities such as eliminating excessive energy consumption; evaluating the toxicity of pesticides used in classrooms and on playgrounds; improving outdoor air quality through increased carpooling efforts; and working to improve indoor air quality.
5. **Nationalize the principles of responsible paper consumption.** Consider purchasing post consumer recycled paper and office products. Use technology

to communicate electronically as much as possible. Seek ways to provide Internet access to all school families.

### **About the Founder:**

Upon graduation from the University of Illinois in 1991, Jill Buck was commissioned a Naval Officer. While stationed at the Fleet Training Center, San Diego, she served as the Legal, Physical Security, Admin, and Command Inspection Officer, as well as a Damage Control Instructor. She is an honor graduate of the Military Justice School, and a graduate of the Navy's small arms weapons course, taught by former Navy Seals.

In 2002, Jill wrote the Go Green Initiative, which is now the largest and fastest growing comprehensive environmental education program in the world, operating in all 50 U.S. states, 13 countries, and on 4 continents. The program has been endorsed by the National School Boards Association (NSBA), National Recycling Coalition, 8 State PTA's, California Integrated Waste Management Board, California Resource Recovery Association, and many more.

Jill owns Buck Consulting, which helps businesses "go green", and achieve profitability through sustainability. She teaches business leaders how to drive revenue up and costs down through environmentally responsible business practices, and how to engage in "green marketing" to increase market share. Her techniques and training are applicable across all industry sectors. In August 2007, she was invited to serve on the International Appraisal Committee for the Daonong Center for Enterprise, a think tank formed by the China Entrepreneur Club. Jill was one of the VIP speakers for the 1st Green Business Summit in Beijing on Earth Day 2008. Jill serves as a Commissioner on the San Francisco Veterans Affairs Commission. Jill is the host of "Go Green Radio", a weekly program on the U.S. largest internet talk radio station, [www.VoiceAmerica.com](http://www.VoiceAmerica.com).

Jill is an international featured speaker at business, public policy, political, and environmental conventions, and is one of the nation's leading advocates of free market solutions for environmental protection issues. Jill has been featured in such publications as U.S. Mayor, NSBA newsletter, Working Mother Magazine, Women's Health Magazine, Ebony Magazine, Diablo Magazine's "Women to Watch", Cleveland Business Connects Magazine, and Dermatology Times.

Recent awards include:

- Letter of Commendation, City of San Jose for Go Green Initiative work
- City of Pleasanton's "Integrity Award"
- Presidential Letter of Congratulations from President George W. Bush
- Governor Schwarzenegger's Recognition for Environmental Leadership
- Honorary Service Award from California State PTA and Pleasanton PTA Council

### **Funding to make the program happen:**

Once schools adopt the Go Green Initiative and a Go Green Team has established its goals and budget for the year, school may find it desirable to conduct special fundraisers to support their programs. In planning fundraisers, we must be mindful of the impact they will have on the environment and on children's health.

The best fundraisers for Go Green projects are those that promote the ideals of the program - for instance, recycling cell phones, aluminum cans, paper, or ink cartridges. Recycling brokers can be found for many of these materials, and will pay schools to collect them. Some Go Green schools have served as community collection points for many of the aforementioned materials and have made over \$5000.00 per year. In essence, schools have been able to fund their Go Green Initiative program by doing the Go Green Initiative program.

Another way of funding the Go Green Initiative is to trim costs and divert the funds to "Green" activities. For instance, if our PTO spends a good deal of money printing flyers that advertise events, we should consider reducing the amount of paper used by double-sided copying, half-sheet copying or email announcements. We can use the money saved for things like composting bins, Earth Day entertainment or recycling education assemblies.

### **Possible Ways to Partner with Businesses/Organizations:**

Many businesses and community/civic organizations have monies available to support local educational initiatives. The Go Green Initiative is a prime candidate for such funds, protecting children's health and the environment through a unique educational experience. Go Green sponsors benefit by aligning themselves with a program that has longevity and impacts the lives of students, parents, teachers and the community at large.

Corporate sponsorships can provide for materials, equipment, incentives and other resources to support our Go Green program.

We would have to adhere to district guidelines regarding corporate sponsorship. At the same time, we would have to find a way(s) to publicly thank our sponsors in keeping with our values.

### **Frequently Asked Questions as stated by the Go Green Initiative Website:**

The **Go Green Planning Guide** will answer most questions about the GGI. For any questions not addressed by the Planning Guide or the following FAQ's, please feel free to **contact us**.

### **How can I bring the Go Green Initiative to my school/area?**

The Go Green Initiative can be adopted by a local school, a PTO, a school district, or even by a city. There is no restriction on who may introduce the program in a community. Step-by-step guidance for implementing the Go Green Initiative can be found in the **Go Green Planning Guide**. When our community has decided to “Go Green”, we register our district online, and we will be connected with the global network of Go Green schools and resources.

### **How much does it cost to implement the Go Green Initiative?**

There is no registration fee to join the Go Green Initiative Association; the program is free to all schools. As we utilize the **Go Green Planning Guide** to set goals for our community, we will also develop a budget for our tailor-made Go Green plan. It is entirely up to our Go Green team to determine how much we will spend to implement the Go Green Initiative. Some schools are able to get all their needs met through donations, while other schools make money by recycling aluminum, ink cartridges, cell phones, etc. Any funding we raise will be used directly in our school community; we will never be asked to pay dues or fees to the Go Green Initiative.

### **Will the Go Green Initiative create more work for teachers?**

Absolutely not! The Go Green Initiative is designed to take some of the burden off of teachers by utilizing parent volunteers to assist teachers. Unlike environmental education (EE) programs of the past which gave little or no day-to-day support to teachers, the Go Green Initiative employs parent and student resources in the planning, scheduling and execution of EE on campus. With the Go Green Initiative, parents absorb some of the duties that would hamper teachers' ability to spend their time and energy focusing on creative ways to align EE with the core curriculum they already must to teach. Parents can do things like write grants; schedule educational assemblies; bring in technical experts for staff training; raise funds for after-school ecology clubs; find corporate sponsors for classroom equipment that facilitates recycling, etc. The Go Green Initiative respects how busy classroom teachers are and works to aid those teachers through parent involvement. In schools with low parent participation, the Go Green Initiative can be shaped to fit the campus culture to overcompensate with student participation. Go Green schools are operating successfully in urban, rural and suburban schools.

### **How does the Go Green Initiative relate to existing school curriculum?**

The Go Green Initiative is not a curriculum program; it is a foundation upon which school communities make intelligent choices about what type of environmental education (EE) curriculum best suits their needs. Over the past 30 years, hundreds of EE curriculum programs have been written. The Go Green Initiative staff can help schools identify the best EE curriculum available based upon two factors:

1. Which of the five principles of the Go Green Initiative does the curriculum address, e.g. generate compost, recycling, etc.; and
2. How well does the curriculum align to the state's existing educational standards.

For instance, if a school in Massachusetts wanted to focus heavily on recycling education (the 2nd and 3rd elements of the GGI), the Go Green Initiative staff would help that school find recycling curriculum that is aligned to the Massachusetts state science standards. By doing so, teachers are not teaching a superfluous lesson when they engage in recycling education in their classroom, they are folding recycling education into state standards they are already required to cover.

### **Cities with Go Green Schools in Our Area:**

#### **Massachusetts**

- Acton
- Agawam
- Beverly
- Brookline
- Cambridge
- Chicopee
- Dartmouth
- East Bridgewater
- Framingham
- Franklin
- Kingston
- Milford
- Norton
- Peabody
- Quincy
- Scituate
- South Boston
- Southwick
- Springfield
- Sutton
- Walpole
- West Dennis
- Westborough
- Westfield
- Winthrop

In conclusion, we would like to formally request that the task force be allowed to register to join our district with the many others across the world who are part of the Go Green Initiative Program. And we would like to thank you, Dr. Burton, for your ongoing support for the greening of our schools initiative.

Respectfully submitted by:

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Jim Lee".

James P. Lee ,  
Principal Happy Hollow School  
Loker Kindergarten School