

<http://www.sustainability.dpsk12.org/>

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SCHOOL SPOTLIGHT: DC-21



The community at Denver Center for 21st Century Learning, also known as DC-21, takes pride in providing creative solutions to preparing students for 21st century challenges. These lessons extend beyond the classroom, as creative solutions have recently been implemented to reduce the school's energy costs.

Outdated incandescent lights have been replaced with new, more efficient, and longer lasting Light Emitting Diodes (LEDs). LED lights are expected to last ten times longer than incandescent lights, reduce electricity usage and save money on utility costs and maintenance.

In Club DC, a common gathering place where students study, socialize, and eat lunch, 44 out-

dated lighting fixtures were replaced with 13 energy efficient T-8 lights. Prior to the upgrade, Facility Manager Tom Conroy noticed that the dimly lit room seemed to make students lethar-



The newly lit Club-DC

gic and unfocused, but now he feels like the atmosphere is more upbeat.

Tom also highlighted the school's gymnasium lighting retrofit as being popular among students because the new lights have eliminated the distracting

shadows that used to be cast across the gym's backboards. Tom jokingly suggested that it must be making a difference because DC-21's basketball team is much improved.

Additionally, as a result of the taxpayer approved 2012 Bond, DC-21 will receive \$600,000 in efficiency upgrades to their Heating, Ventilation and Cooling Systems (HVAC) and new high efficiency cooling units in their server rooms, resulting in significant energy savings.

Tom also works with teachers and staff at DC-21 to reduce energy costs by changing behaviors: he encourages people to turn off lights when not in use and turns down school temperatures when appropriate.



SUSTAINABLE PARTNERSHIP:



A recent partnership between DPS and Denver Water is expected to reduce water consumption across the district by 40%, saving approximately \$243,000 annually and conserving up to 3 million gallons of water a year over the next three years.

Through Denver Water's rebate program, DPS has been able to purchase low cost and low flow faucets, toilets, and urinals while benefiting from a significant rebate on the cost of every fixture. These rebates are also available to Denver residents. More information can be found at: www.denverwater.org

The voter approved 2008 and 2012 Bond Measures finance a 3 man crew to install these water saving fixtures at each school, starting with the highest indoor water users.

Architect and Senior Project Manager, Miguel Lander is not

only the crew's manager but has also been busy communicating the educational benefits behind water conservation efforts. Lander says, "If we consume less water we also dispose of less water in our sewers. This saves money on both consumption and disposal costs." He also adds, "By using less water we are keeping it for others to use. We depend on nature, and if it's a bad snow year in the mountains, then there are going to be restrictions down here in Denver."

Miguel also commends the facility managers for their efforts in serving as a liaison between the principals, staff, and students; helping them understand the importance behind water conservation measures.

Additionally, the DPS

Plumbing Shop and Denver Water have partnered on replacing individual high flow faucets

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NEED.**

DENVER WATER
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across the district on an as-needed basis at no additional cost to the school.

DPS Director of Sustainability Jim Faes adds: "Whatever affects us at school also affects us at home." Faes encourages everyone to visit the informative Denver Water Conservation website, www.denverwater.org/conservation, to discover tips to help you conserve water in your home and at work.

THE CHIPOTLE GREEN YOUR SCHOOL MAKEOVER

Congratulations to the final competitors in the Chipotle Green Your School Makeover Contest: Denver Center for International Studies, Denver School of the Arts, Martin Luther King Jr. Early College, and High Tech Early College. These high schools were selected from a district pool of 10 applicants to present their plans and budgets to Chipotle and DPS Staff members on December 6th at Chipotle's Corporate Headquarters in LoDo.

On the night of December 6th, visionary students from each school presented how they would "green" their school if awarded \$20,000. Each school presented well thought-out plans, but in the end Martin Luther King Jr. Early College was selected as the winning proposal. MLK Jr. Early College students plan to use the funds to develop an on-site hydroponic greenhouse.

In a last minute surprise, Chipotle offered a second place prize of \$10,000 to Denver School of the Arts for their plans to expand their current garden site, revamp their recycling program and initiate large scale composting for the entire school. DPS would like to thank all students who participated and especially Chipotle Mexican Grill for their generous sponsorship.



**Green
Your
SCHOOL
MAKEOVER**

DEPARTMENT SPOTLIGHT: HEALTHY SCHOOLS TEAM

Located in Nursing and Student Services, the *Healthy Schools Team* facilitates two committees that review health programs, services, and research proposals from community partners.

As part of this year's campaign titled, **The You Revolution**, an online health and wellness portal has been launched. The site features a digital library containing the latest health and wellness information, an online activity tracker, and tools to help you construct a personal wellness plan. If you would like to learn more we invite you to visit:

<https://dpsk12wellness.motivation.cc>.

The Healthy Schools Team



would also like to remind the DPS community that eight fitness centers are available for students, staff and other community members. These health centers are located at: Abraham Lincoln High School, Bruce Randolph Middle School, Denver Center for Inter-

national Studies, George Washington High School, John F. Kennedy High School, Martin Luther King, Jr. Early College, North High School, and West High School. Membership is low-cost and even includes a free personal trainer to assist in achieving your fitness goals.

During the 2011-12 school year, the Healthy Schools Team administered the *Healthy Kids Colorado* survey to students in grades 6 thru 12. The intent was to measure risk and protective factors impacting attendance and academic outcomes. The data is being used to advance student health and school en-

agement.

DPS is also excited to announce a new partnership with Children's Hospital Colorado. Through this partnership, a free online health curriculum is now available for teachers, school nurses and other supporting staff. The curriculum offers interactive activities and creative assessment tools. To learn more about the curriculum please visit: www.healthteacher.com, and To learn more about the *Healthy Schools Team* please visit: www.healthyschools.dpsk12.org/

DPS CHECK IN: GARDEN OF YOUTH

The DPS Garden of Youth program, now in its 3rd year, enables high school students with disabilities to experience themselves as active and vital participants within their community.

Students participating in the program are responsible for all phases of gardening: design, planting, cultivation, harvesting, marketing and produce sales. Students cultivate the seedlings in a classroom setting and transplant them into onsite gardens. During the summer months, students manage all aspects of these "small business gardens" as paid interns.

Through the assistance and guidance of DPS staff, participants develop work and life skills, such as marketing and customer service, needed to successfully transition into the full-time work world. The program is



designed to be an engaging and relevant work experience that incorporates aspects of entrepreneurialism.

Students bring healthy and fresh local food to area residents and businesses while simultaneously learning the benefits of sound nutrition and living a healthy lifestyle. Upon completion of the internship, participants will have the necessary skills preparing them for various employment opportunities.

This summer, nine interns will be employed in the Garden of Youth. Gardens will be located at Thomas Jefferson, Manual and North High Schools. Please keep an eye out for the Garden of Youth produce and interns this upcoming season at various farmer's markets located throughout the Metro Denver area.



CONSERVATION TIPS

Consider purchasing a high-efficiency low-flow toilet to reduce water usage by an estimated 40 to 50 percent. A \$75 rebate can be obtained through Denver Water for any *WaterSense*-labeled toilet using 1.28 gallons or less per flush. To learn more visit: www.denverwater.org

Did you know that it takes more energy and money to recycle a plastic grocery bag than to make a new one? Please remember to reuse bags or to bring a reusable bag on your shopping outings. Also, if you don't need one don't take one. Most grocery stores sell reusable bags at the register. On average, 88 billion plastic bags are used in the U.S. each year. This requires 12 million barrels of oil!

DPS ENERGY CHALLENGE: RACE TO THE FINISH



For a second year, the DPS Sustainability Office is coordinating a district-wide Energy Challenge. This year, the Challenge involves 10 competing elementary schools. The Challenge involves participation in education and

actions focusing on energy and water conservation as well as waste reduction. Actions include taking informative building tours lead by their school's Facility Manager, interviewing "experts" in energy efficiency and conducting school-wide energy and water audits.



In a surprise dash out of the starting line, Slavens School was the first competitor to complete their run around the game board and will win an extra \$1,000 for sustainability actions in their school. The DPS Sustainability Office recently announced that the second and third schools to successfully complete the Challenge game board will receive \$750 and \$500 respectively after they cross the finish line.