

## Curriculum Connections

### Learning, Leadership and Action through EcoSchools ...

#### About the program ...

Green Club students lead the way environmentally at Oakridge Junior Public School. One group monitors waste-free lunches every day, the Light Bulb Gang checks for lights-off when classrooms are empty at recess and noon and organics are composted on site. Grade 2 students tend the inner courtyard Star Garden, fostering an early sense of responsibility for “Earth Care.” A gardening partnership with Hearn Middle School further teaches the power of cooperation. The recycling team takes part in a rigorous school-wide waste audit. Oakridge’s environmental efforts were recognized and widely broadcast by Global TV News, which featured an Oakridge school-wide environmental education event as an example of [Earth Day](#) in Toronto schools.



#### Impact on student learning and school culture ...

- Students develop written and oral presentation skills, as well as self-esteem, when they give voice to issues that matter to them and their community.
- Children educate their parents and guardians about the importance of a healthy environment for everyone’s healthy future.
- Enthusiasm for the school’s focus has been demonstrated at the school’s Pixel Movie Festival. For the festival, students engaged in environmentally-focused, cross-curricular learning. Students combined technology, performance arts and new literacies to produce videos about the environment which were shown to the whole school.
- The school’s green initiatives complement the Ministry of Education’s [Environment Education policy framework](#) and provide ongoing opportunities for students to learn about nature’s ecology and our role as humans in preserving it.

#### Community outreach ...

The environmental message is also promoted through the school’s online newsletter. The popular “Feet First Friday” emphasizes the health and environmental benefits of walking to school whenever possible.

#### To find out more, contact ...

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