



Environmental Charter Schools

Green News

June 2020



Dear ECS Team:

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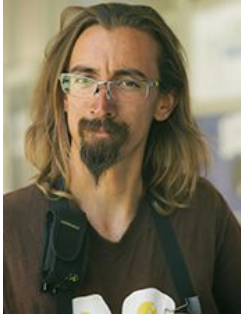
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Watch Tashanda Giles, Green Ambassador And Activist

Watch Tashanda Giles speak at the inaugural Summit of Hope, a Black Lives Matters' 3-part virtual event that brings us together from coast to coast to develop effective, accountable action steps to help fight for freedom, justice and equality. The virtual event begins with education and our own Tashanda Giles. Watch her inspire as she shares her powerful story [here](#). Additional Summit of Hope Programming: June 25 and July 2 from 5:00-6:30 PM PST. Register [here](#).

Eddie's Corner



Greetings ECS family! The curtain now closes on this wild school year, and summer vibes beckon around the corner. Know this: despite the hardships and trauma that accompanied the 2019-2020 academic year, we pulled through with unrelenting devotion to the success of our students, and to the mission of our charter with unarguable commitment. Well done! Highest regards and congratulations to the class of 2020! The greatest pressures create the purest of diamonds.

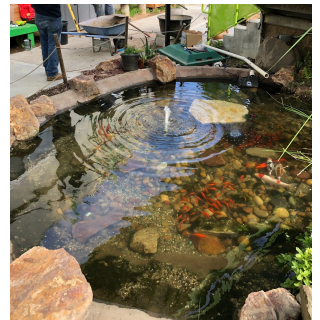
Despite the somber absence of the daily hustle and bustle on our campuses for almost three months, our dynamic urban oases continue to thrive, develop and produce abundantly! ECHS had two successful campus produce giveaways, followed by ECMS-Inglewood with a very bountiful fruit harvest! Who can deny fresh, organic produce?! More produce giveaways will be announced throughout the summer!



The highschool witnessed the birth of four California Scrub-Jays, a native species that has taken a liking to our wild campus, these bold blue birds can be seen playfully fluttering about upon the sunflowers and fruit trees. A good omen of new beginnings and potential!

ECMS-Inglewood has had the largest yield of fruit development within its gardens, and the lush landscape flourishes with butterflies.

ECMS-Gardena's pond sparkles with crystal clear water, courtesy of a new filtration system installed by EnviroScape LA, revealing the colorful and joyful coy fish dancing in the water, beckoning an audience!



Nature knows no discrimination and no worry -only purpose and miracles constantly repeated. That is why we allow nature to take a commanding presence upon our campuses, and hopefully, upon your endeavors in the times to come. "Of all the paths you take in life, make sure a few of them are dirt." John Muir.

Reach out to the ECHS Green Ambassador team or to me at Eddie_Cortez@ecsonline.org if you are interested in some seedling plugs.

An Audit of Our Carbon Footprint

During the fall, your site engineers, accounting and operations team partnered with the Green Schools National Network (GSNN) and its partner Benecras to evaluate our current systems and assess our carbon footprint. Our goal was to



benchmark where we currently are, highlight strengths, identify opportunities for operational efficiency and to develop long-term strategic sustainability objectives. The report linked [here](#) provides a comparative evaluation of four key sustainability indicators: energy, waste, water and printing. To compare the sustainability performance of a campus, Benecras used a per student sustainability index (PSSI). The calculation for this index is the Annual Cost divided by the number of students. For our math folks, **Annual Cost / Enrollment = PSSI**.

What can we learn from the report? Overall ECS gets five stars - our campuses are very efficient when comparing them to schools in other geographic regions. When we compare our PSSI across our own campuses, we learn a little more. For example, ECHS energy use is lower than at our middle schools, perhaps because the lower campus is not air conditioned-- something that will soon change. As well, Gardena's water usage is lower than our other schools -- likely because it has the least amount of outdoor space. Next year, we will set a measurable goal to reduce our energy use further. The goal will live on our strategic priorities benchmark chart [here](#). If you or your students want to partner with your site engineer to support our goal, please reach out to Alison@ecsonline.org and or your site engineer for support!

Green Improvements



In April's Edition of the Green News, you heard about the repaired irrigation systems and the new electric charging station at ECMS Gardena. This month, ECMS Inglewood's grant dollars from the Ahmanson Foundation were hard at work. ECMS I installed a sports court and safety netting. I'm looking forward to seeing kids once again playing!

During the summer months, ECMS Inglewood Science lab will receive an official makeover. All new cabinets are green certified.

At ECHS, our partners at Cumming are working hard to get the Department of State Architecture to approve HVAC for its lower campus. Fingers crossed that after 10 years, we are so very close to improving the learning environment in all our high school classrooms!

EarthDay is everyday

Summer Home Improvement Energy Efficiency Projects

LADWP Rebate Program: LADWP offers a variety of rebates and programs for its residential customers (tenants, homeowners, and landlords) to assist in saving money and resources while improving our environment.

Residential and Commercial rebates offered by the Metropolitan Water District of Southern California: Together, toilets and clothes washers account for approximately 45% of the water used inside your home.



Replacement of your inefficient clothes washer or toilet may contribute to water savings and a reduced water bill. Up to 70% of California's entire residential water supply is applied to home landscapes, yet many landscapes are overwatered due to sprinkler controllers that are not programmed properly. Review outdoor products and devices designed to reduce waste, usage and homeowner costs.

California Friendly® Landscape Incentive Program: Take advantage of LADWP's most popular water conservation program. "Cash in" your lawn and create a sustainable landscape that includes California Friendly® plants, including native species, appropriate for the Los Angeles climate, mulch and other groundcover to help retain moisture in the soil, a rain capturing feature like a rain garden, rain barrel, cistern, infiltration trench, or vegetated swale, and Drip irrigation (as needed). A sustainable landscape will not only help you save on your water bill by reducing your water use. You will also help recharge the groundwater, reduce urban runoff and enhance wildlife habitat—overall benefiting yourself and the Los Angeles watershed.

Save More with So Cal Edison Rebates and Incentives: Find out about Southern California rebates by [clicking the link](#).

DIY Activities During Summer Amidst Covid-19

1. Check out this [list](#) of 40 Easy One Day DIY Lawn And Garden Projects over the summer. There are a few upcycled ideas that you may be able to do without ever leaving your home.
2. Manhattan Beach PTA put together this list of ideas [here](#).
3. Read. For our students, reading has the double advantage of providing escape and improving our children's reading ability. For the adults in the community, it can be a stress relief as well. A few books book lists you may want to consider:
 - [Goodreads Environmental Justice](#) recommended reading
 - [13 Must Read books on the environment and Climate Change](#)
 - [Best Environmental Books for Readers Who Want to Save the Planet](#)
4. Or begin your own small vegetable or herb garden. [Here](#) are some pinterest ideas. And [here](#) is a how-to YouTube video. Good luck!

Resources and Opportunities

Green Schools Catalyst Quarterly (GSCQ)

GSCQ is the only comprehensive journal dedicated to the advancement of green, healthy, sustainable K-12 schools. It is a peer-reviewed, high-interest, digital magazine that highlights evidence-based practices for replication in green, healthy, sustainable schools. Click [here](#) to learn more/subscribe to the quarterly journal. This edition of the quarterly talks all about civic engagement. For example, one article states, "Today's youth are our leaders of tomorrow and their political perspectives are shaped by their unique experiences and realities. Therefore it is imperative for educators to create opportunities within their classrooms for students to form political identities and take action against social injustices, especially those that directly impact students." Learn more [here](#) about using hip-hop pedagogy as a form of civic engagement in the Winter edition of the 2020 Green Schools Catalyst Quarterly.

Environmental Justice for a Sustainable Future



Looking for something to do this summer. Attend a Virtual PD Workshop: Addressing Environmental Justice for a Sustainable Future July 15-17. Learn more [here](#). We are GSNN members so registration would only be \$25 per teacher attending.