

*Committee Kids*

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*Building Structures  
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*Energy Conservation  
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Emily Kellogg*

*Transportation  
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*Big Cats  
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# Green School Kids Committee

February, 2012

## Reduce, Reuse, Recycle!

*Written by Julia Koterwas, Taylor Golden, and Lauren Spiese*

We are collecting cell phones and ink cartridges. We will send them to a company called Funding Factory. They will repurpose the phones and ink cartridges. Please place donated cell phones or ink cartridges in the bin in the front entrance marked Funding Factory.

It is important to recycle cell phones, ink cartridges and small electronics because otherwise they will end up in a landfill. Funding Factory will turn used cell phones into cell phones people will use rather than wasting energy to make new ones. We will use the money we raise for our Green School projects. Please send in all your used cell phones and ink cartridges. Thank you for your help.



## Start saving phone books for a spring collection.

*Please don't send in to school until request them, we can't store them.*

## Walk for a Cause-A Cleaner Environment

*Written by Leah Lindsay*

Pollutants. Sound like a good thing? What about wasting gas on the ride to school? Of course not! We on the Green School Transportation Committee think there is something we can do about that problem. One solution is **carpool**.



## Less Cars = Less Pollution and Less Wasted Gas

Another solution is our **Walking Wednesdays**. We would like to begin a walking brigade. It would start at Eagle's Ridge and, from there, we will walk along the bottom section of Whispering Hills, picking up kids and chaperones at every street. The problem is that **we have no chaperones**. If you are interested, please sign up in the lobby of the school. Your kids will benefit from walking Wednesdays by being stronger, healthier people while contributing to a cleaner environment.

## Green School Committee Formed at SES

Fourth and fifth graders at Smithsburg Elementary are taking an important step toward making our community a greener place. The committee decided as part of our STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Math) initiative here at SES to work toward becoming a Maryland Green School. This is a two year kid driven process.

*Continued on next page*



## Cause an Uproar!

*Written By Kaycie Sherbert and Ryan Chinn*

We are the Big Cats Committee. Our mission is to help big cats like tigers, cheetahs, lions, and leopards. They are declining very quickly and they soon will be gone. Big cats homes are being destroyed by people building houses, cities, and farms. We plan to help big cats by having a fundraiser, **Coins for Cats**, from **February 15 to February 29**. So start saving your coins!

If you would like to learn more about the National Geographic Big Cats program visit [www.natgeoed.org/bigcats](http://www.natgeoed.org/bigcats) or [www.causeanuproar.org](http://www.causeanuproar.org). You can also visit the school website to listen to our podcast and see how much money we raise. (*Podcasts should be posted to our website by the middle of February*)

### Green School Committee Formed at SES

*(cont from page 1)*

Students have spent the fall making decisions and working on plans to meet the Maryland Green School criteria. They have decided on four objectives-Recycling, Building Structures, Energy Conservation and, Transportation. They have targeted areas of need within these objectives and developed solutions to problems within this area of need. It is important for kids to take responsibility for making our Earth a better place, please support them in their efforts!

### Help the Birds

*Written by Eddie Mutchler, Tori Biser, Colton Helms, Aidyn Smith*

Building Structure Committee kids are putting up a birdfeeder station to help take care of birds during the long cold winter. This is a part of our Green School objectives. Some of the birds we are trying to attract are finches, blue jays, cardinals, doves, sparrows, and woodpeckers.

We need donations to help us with this project. We will use money donations to buy bird seeds and bird feeders. We will place the bird feeders around the school for all the students to watch and enjoy.

### Money Saving Factoid

Did you know that most birds that come to bird feeders are picky eaters? Most will only eat sunflower or safflower seeds! If there is a mixture of seeds that include millet or other filler seeds they will just kick those seeds out onto the ground! So save some money and just feed them what they like!!

### Watt's Up!

*Written by Sophia Drumm, Emily Cosentino, and Emily Kellogg*

We are Energy Conservation Kids Committee. We are trying to save energy in our school. We are encouraging kids to save energy by making sure the last person out of a classroom turns off the light; to open the blinds on sunny days so you can turn off the lights in the classroom; to turn off the T.V. when announcements are over; and to turn off classroom computer monitors when they are not in use.

Here are some things you can do at home!

*Turn off lights when you are not in the room.*

*Turn down the heat and wear a sweater or grab a blanket.*

*Use the sun's light, instead of a light bulb*

*When you're not using your computer turn the monitor off.*

**Hint:** Did you know that your computer monitor uses more energy than your hard drive even when it is sleeping? So save some money and turn off your monitor when you aren't using it.

### Donations Needed for Bird Feeder Station:

- 2 Wooden Poles —4 inches x 4 inches x 8 feet
- Black Oiled Sunflower Seed (**no exceptions please**)
- Nyger Seed
- 2 Seed Scoops
- Suet Cakes
- Sunflower Seed Tube Bird Feeder
- Nyger Seed Tube Bird Feeder
- 18 inch tall metal trash can with handle and lid
- Money Donations would be welcome



Please check with office before buying your donation to see if it has been donated already or e-mail Mrs. Blum at [blumjen@wcps.k12.md.us](mailto:blumjen@wcps.k12.md.us) . Thank you!