



ACADEMIC REPORT

"How wonderful it is that nobody needs to wait a single moment before starting to improve the world."

- Anne Frank

Integrating Science and Civics: Our Curriculum Building Continues...

Civics education is a cornerstone in shaping students into responsible citizens of their schools, communities, nation and the Earth. This year, thanks to a grant-funded opportunity with MontCo Community College, the Green Woods team will further develop our EIC curriculum framework by focusing our attention on civic engagement. Our process began this week at a professional development session lead by Jill Beccaris-Pescatore, former GWCS Social Studies teacher and current MontCo Community College Economics professor. At this first session we discussed what we want a Green Woods' student to know and do as a citizen. Throughout the year, our teachers will design activities that will tie in with our EIC curriculum and incorporate civic engagement. Finally, our team will present our framework at a workshop next spring at MontCo. The goal over the next few years will be to create a seamless transition of civic engagement starting in Kindergarten and building towards a capstone activity in 8th grade. This effort is a real tribute to the creativity and forward thinking of the Green Woods team (past and present). Through this effort, our students will be both scientifically literate and actively engaged in the civic process!!

Revising our Current EIC Focus Continues...

In anticipation of our move and growing student body, during the 2011-12 year, two of the original authors of our EIC curriculum—Kathleen Geist and Kristina Skladaitis—will work in collaboration to further define our K-8 environmental education framework. One major goal during the year will be to identify and take full advantage of new partnerships in science education to support our students and staff in the future. In the coming years, our outdoor field work will take on a fresh look through these partnership opportunities. For us, the sky is the limit!

Our Charter School Growth and Renewal Continues...

A letter was submitted to the Office of Charter Schools outlining our desire to renew our charter for another five years. This process will begin on August 30th at a meeting with School District officials, continue through the fall and winter months and culminate next spring in, what we are certain will be, a successful renewal of our charter.

A Successful Media Campaign Continues...

As part of her research into the "top charter schools in Philadelphia," Philly Magazine writer, Caroline Tiger, was encouraged by her sources to contact Green Woods and learn more about our successful school and program. Be sure to look for Caroline's story in the October edition of Philadelphia Magazine!

Green Woods' Outreach to Future Educators Continues...

Green Woods has been asked, once again, to present our innovative curriculum model to future teachers. Next month, Kate Langdon and Jean Wallace will do a presentation to education majors at Bryn Athyn College. The following day the entire Bryn Athyn class will take a field trip to Green Woods to see us in action! Along with our outreach to Bryn Athyn, we will also be welcoming a student teacher from Chestnut Hill College for the Fall semester. Joe Ferrante will be learning from, and teaching with, our 5th grade team.

Making AYP Continues...

It's official—Green Woods has achieved AYP again! Highlights of the 2011 PSSAs include 96% of our 4th grade students achieving proficient/advanced in both Science and Math, as well as 100% of our 8th grade students earning proficient/advanced in Reading. Congratulations to our entire staff and, of course, our hard-working students.

Our Hard Work Never Ends...

A special thank you to the administrative staff—Kim, Mimi, Jeanne, Karen, MaryJo, Joe, and the Leadership Team—Steve Masterson and Gina Knowles— for their hard work over the summer months. Summer is a busy time at Green Woods. This hard work in preparation for the new school year doesn't go unnoticed. Thank you all!!