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Current in the Creek

Patty Sheehan, Creek Connections teacher at Aliquippa High School and Shawn McKnight, Creek Connections student at Hickory High School have received word that they are definitely going to Japan with the Japan-America Watershed Stewardship Project this summer! We wish them a safe and enriching trip!

Costa Rican Students Join Symposium at Allegheny College Through Skype

We kicked off the annual student research symposium at Allegheny College by using Skype to bring our Creek Connections' Costa Rican School - Green Valley, into the auditorium with us. Green Valley's third graders treated us to a puppet show on the value of water to each of the animals they introduced us to. Many of the over 400 students in attendance let us know this was their favorite part of the day.

Marta Ramirez, Green Valley's elementary school principal and Ileana Hernandez, a teacher at Green Valley joined us in person. They helped organize their students before the symposium Skype session as well as setting up the presentation for us that day. We appreciate all their hard work!

Creek Connections teachers and students did a wonderful job creating displays to show off their latest watershed research. We had a tough choice when picking the top displays, but after much deliberation; Youngsville's "Fresh Farm", Hermitage's "Fish Facts", and Clymer's "White Tail Deer" were awarded for being one notch above the rest.

Schools participating in the oral presentation session also did a wonderful job developing their projects. Public speaking is a valuable experience but can still be pretty scary. We very much appreciate the schools who stepped up and presented: Clymer Central, Hermitage, Jamestown, Maplewood, and Youngsville.

After a delicious lunch from The Whole Darn Thing sub shop, students were eagerly sent off to focus group activities all over Allegheny campus. There were an extraordinary variety of activities, everything from invasive species

to creating cards from recycled materials. Not even the rain could stop the students from learning new and exciting things! Thank you to everyone who participated and made this symposium great! Hope to see you all next year!

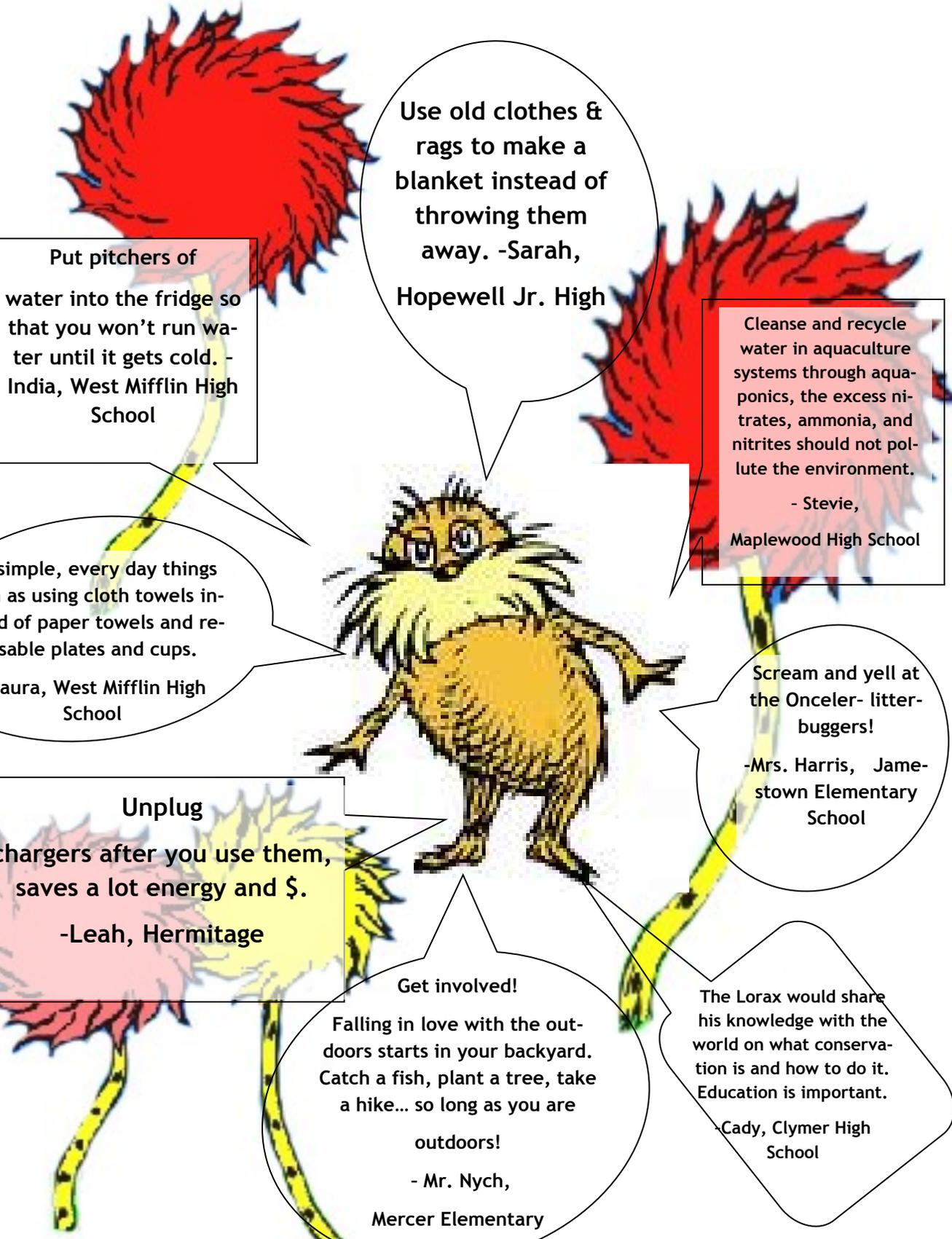


Above: Green Valley school student in Costa Rica presents to symposium audience in Shafer Auditorium.

Below: Students learn about stream channel development in the flume room with Sam Reese and Tom Hayden.



What would the Lorax do?



Put pitchers of water into the fridge so that you won't run water until it gets cold. - India, West Mifflin High School

Use old clothes & rags to make a blanket instead of throwing them away. -Sarah, Hopewell Jr. High

Cleanse and recycle water in aquaculture systems through aquaponics, the excess nitrates, ammonia, and nitrites should not pollute the environment.

- Stevie, Maplewood High School

Do simple, every day things such as using cloth towels instead of paper towels and reusable plates and cups.

-Maura, West Mifflin High School

Scream and yell at the Onceler- litter-buggers!

-Mrs. Harris, Jamestown Elementary School

Unplug chargers after you use them, saves a lot energy and \$.

-Leah, Hermitage

Get involved!

Falling in love with the outdoors starts in your backyard. Catch a fish, plant a tree, take a hike... so long as you are

outdoors!

- Mr. Nych,

Mercer Elementary

The Lorax would share his knowledge with the world on what conservation is and how to do it. Education is important.

-Cady, Clymer High School

Project Displays ROCK at Pittsburgh Area Student Research Symposium!

On Friday, April 15th, more than 300 creekers gathered at YMCA Camp Kon-O-Kwee for another annual Creek Connections Student Research Symposium. The dining hall was soon bustling with activity as students showed off their projects. Many schools went above and beyond this year with their project ideas! A salamander obstacle course was set up on the floor by the Quaker Valley Creekers, and soon enough a remote salamander was darting through the path. Other top projects included the Creek Chemistry display by Shady Side Middle School, and the Bullfrog Rap by West Mifflin High School. After browsing the research projects, students

watched a presentation about polar bears in Canada by the Joe Stefko of the PA Game Commission.

Later in the morning, students were dismissed to their focus group activities to learn about a wide variety of environmental studies - from water quality, to bald eagles, to edible landfills! Everyone was smiling while walking back to the dining hall for lunch. The weather was beautiful and students and teachers enjoyed their lunches in the sun on the patio before heading back to school. Thanks to everyone who came to the Pittsburgh Area Symposium. We had a great day and hope that you learned something new and had fun!



Above: Joe Stefko presents video on polar bears.

Below: Quaker Valley students teach others about the perils salamanders face through their hands-on project.



Above: Students look for critters in the pond.

Below: Allegheny College creekers visited each display and determined which would be the top displays for the year.





All of us Creekers wish to thank you for another great year at Creek Connections! We can't do it without you!

Connect with

CREEK CONNECTIONS

Box 10, Allegheny College
520 North Main Street
Meadville, PA 16335

Phone: 814.332.5351

Fax: 814.332.2789

Email: creek@allegheny.edu

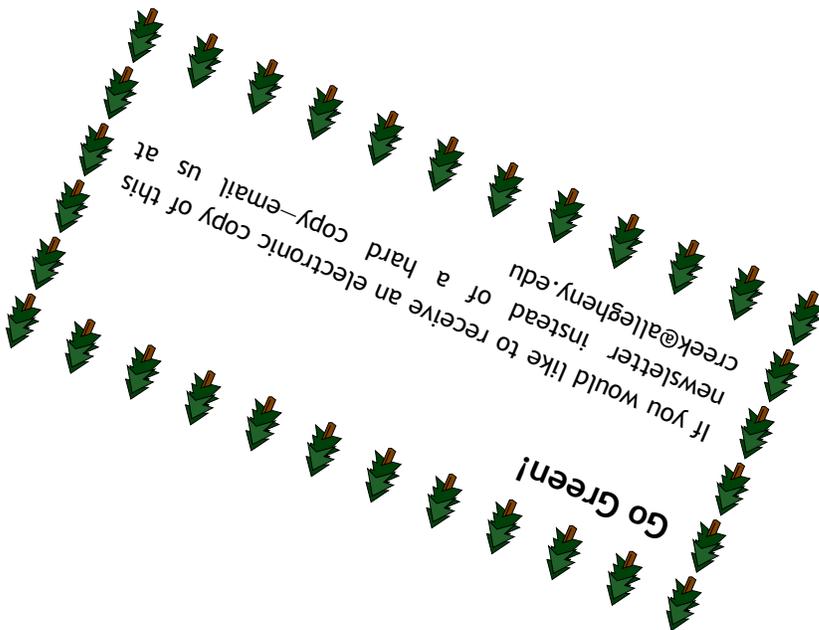
Web: <http://creekconnections.allegheny.edu>



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CREEK CONNECTIONS
Box 10, Allegheny College
520 North Main Street
Meadville, PA 16335

