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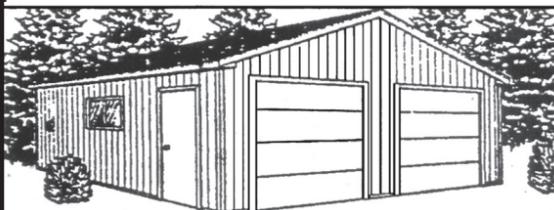
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2011 'Rise Up & Read' challenge winners

(Submitted by Shettler School)

This past winter, Shettler Elementary held its 2nd annual "Rise Up & Read" reading challenge for fourth and fifth grade students as a reading incentive program. The purpose of this program was not only to encourage students to read more, but to read longer books as well as a wider variety of literature types.

Fifteen genres of books were identified (8 fiction, 6 nonfiction, and 1 picture book). Students were asked to read one book from each type and pass the Accelerated Reader (AR) quiz for the book.

All students who completed 15 books during the time frame and have earned a total of 50 or more AR points between December 1, 2010 and March 31, 2011 were invited to a Craig's Cruisers get-away adventure and a sleepover held here at the school.

We would like to congratulate 38 students for completing this year's challenge: Broedy Bedford, Dominic Boukamp, Ashley Brink, Bryanne Brusven, Jordan Carlyle, Lena Cook, Brenden Deneen, Taylor Dornbos, Ryan Eitnearn, Makenzie Fairfield, Kaya Franklin, Alysa Guidici, Mary Hedges, Connor Hines, Makayla Hitsman, Luke Hronek, Karena Johnson, Kori Johnson, Elisa Jones, Madelynn Kelly, Maddi Krapohl, Kiali Larsch, Abby Lusnak, Nathan Magner, Joselyn Markgraf, Gavin McIntire, Meghan Nash, Gabrielle Peabody, Eric Redmon, Haley Steiner, Naomi Strait, Taylor Strand, Sophia Tardani, Makiah Tripp, Nathan VanMeter, Elijah VerMerris, Rachel Zdrojewski, and Morgan Zielinski. •

Second graders learn to reduce, reuse and recycle

By Julie Anderson

Beach second graders are learning how to reduce, reuse and recycle. They will be thinking of ways to reuse items by doing a homework project called "Recycled Treasures." They will also be learning how important recycling is to our environment. They will be recycling water bottles for one month. At the end of the month, they will be counting and graphing the number that have been kept out of landfills. •

Brain-based classroom in second grade

By Julia Rager and Caden Whipple

Do you know what a brain-based classroom looks like? Well, we have one in second grade at Beach School.

All week we have classroom jobs to do. These jobs help us build caring, cooperation, friendship, and responsibility. For example, we have the jobs of line leader, messenger, caddie straightener, and sweeper.

We also have daily agendas. These agendas keep us focused and let us know what will happen during the day. These agendas are written in blue and green because these are calming colors.

We also have chimes in our classroom. Chimes signal us to look at the teacher for further instructions. These chimes have a soft sound that keeps us calm.

Lifeskills help us with our behavior. We use them and the Lifelong Guidelines every day. I hope you have learned about our brain-based classroom. Thank you for reading our article. •



Fruitport Team Eco members are Cory Bussing, Bradley Chorny, Thomas Crotty, Rowan Humphreys, Nathan Kriger, Kaitlynn Morano, Bryant Rebone, Kylan Sherman, Olivia Traxler, and Jillian Welch.

FMS teacher, students win White Pine Award

(Submitted by Great Lakes Stewardship Initiative)

The Michigan Senate has awarded teacher Rachel Kent and ten students in her eighth grade class at Fruitport Middle School with the White Pine Award for Environmental Excellence. Kent and her class are involved in the West Michigan Great Lakes Stewardship Initiative — one of eight regional hubs of the Great Lakes Stewardship Initiative (GLSI). The purpose of the GLSI is to develop young stewards of the environment through hands-on learning in the community.

The White Pine Award honors extraordinary environmental efforts in Michigan, and was given to Kent and her students for their work on a stream restoration project.

"The students at Fruitport Middle School, under the leadership and direction of teacher Rachel Kent, have become an example of what it means to be a true steward of the environment. It is exciting to see young people take an active role in improving the health of their community. I'm certain their efforts will inspire others to protect our great state's natural resources," said State Senator Goeff Hansen.

In 2010, Kent and her students, who call themselves "Fruitport Team Eco," identified a local stream that ran through school property and was polluting nearby Spring Lake, which drains into Lake Michigan. They developed a plan to build a rain garden at the school to reduce storm water runoff, and to work in a larger geographic area to monitor water quality, assess septic

seepage, work with property owners to restore a length of stream, and educate citizens about water resources. Fruitport Team Eco will be working with representatives from Grand Valley State University, the Muskegon Conservation District, and other local officials to write a management plan for these tributaries.

"We are extremely honored and pleased to be recognized for our efforts," said Kent. "This project has given students an opportunity to see first-hand how they can make a difference in the environment and in their community."

Fruitport Team Eco's work in 2010 and their plan to continue their efforts in 2011 earned them a \$10,000 grant from Lexus through its Lexus Eco Challenge. Each student won a \$700 scholarship (to be held for college), and the district received \$3,000 to support their work in the community. If Fruitport Team Eco wins one of the final rounds of the challenge, they could receive additional funding for their project.

"The Great Lakes Stewardship Initiative is thrilled that one of our participating classes has been recognized by the Michigan Senate with the White Pine Award for Environmental Excellence," said Dr. Mary Whitmore, GLSI program coordinator. "It helps to validate GLSI's impact on educating our young students, expanding classrooms, strengthening communities, and improving the environment."

The school also received a white pine (Michigan's state tree) to be planted on its campus. •