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# Home and School Association



Saint Peter's  
**Green Team**  
Caring for Creation

## Green Team Projects

[What is Laudato Si'?](#)

[Volunteer HERE!](#)

### Who Are We?

We are a group of parents, students, and faculty members committed to leading Saint Peter's School towards a more sustainable future.

In celebration of our Catholic Faith, and in response to Cardinal Gregory's Laudato Si' Action Plan, we aim to *educate, inspire, and empower* our students to become better stewards of our shared home: Earth.

By providing educational opportunities and activities that raise student and community awareness, we hope to teach our young stewards to identify wasteful practices, research solutions, and implement programs to achieve these solutions.

## Updates & Announcements

### Saint Peter's has a New Bike Rack!

Donated by the Zadecky Family, our new 20-bike rack is located in the grass outside of the office windows (along the east side of the school). It has been assembled and is ready for use! And not just by students. Parent volunteers and Faculty- you are welcome to ride YOUR bikes to school, too!

**THANK YOU, ZADECKYS!!**



### 3rd Grade Put the Green in Clean!

With instruction and guidance from Mrs. Baschuk, our school nurse, 3rd grade students made their own natural all-purpose spray cleaner and reusable disinfecting wipes. Then, they cleaned their classrooms! This is what the students had to say about their project:

*We made reusable wipes and spray cleaners out of vinegar, essential oils, castile soap, and water. We can save money and help our environment by using less chemicals.*

*We mixed the ingredients, put the wipes in, and let them sit overnight. We cleaned with them the next day. We didn't use paper towels with the spray cleaner so we could save trees and resources. We tried not to use all of the cleaner and did not throw the wipes away. We also used rags to wipe and clean our desks, chairs, tables and other things in the classroom. We made the wipes out of old t-shirts, so that they could be washed and used again. After we finished, we put the wipes in a reusable bag. Now, we can use them again!*

*Try it yourself! It worked great!*

Please click [HERE](#) for **recipes to make your own green cleaners at home!**

## Still Walking N' Rolling

**We still need participating families to submit photos and car miles saved using the links below. Please.**

If your child participated and has something to say about it, please send us a short video, message, or flier of their thoughts on walking, biking, carpooling to school!

Report Car-Miles Saved [HERE!](#)

Contact Julie Zadecky for link to upload photos and with any questions.

## Be Our Next Green Team Chair or Environmental Club Leader!

*Do you have a passion for eco-friendly projects and practices? Maybe you have ideas on how Saint Peter's School can live more sustainably? If so, please **consider leading the Green Team and/or Environmental Club starting next year!** The current Chair, Margaret Giron, will be 'graduating' at the end of this year and is looking for her replacement **now** so that there is plenty of time to shadow. If you are interested, please email [margaret.giron@gmail.com](mailto:margaret.giron@gmail.com).*



## Environmental Club Corner

Registration information and winter/ spring Environmental Club meeting dates will be coming soon in early 2024.



Our Environmental Club consists of **4<sup>th</sup> through 8<sup>th</sup> grade students** who have so much energy and excitement in helping to plan and implement some of our student-driven sustainable practices. During club meetings, **we get outside as much as possible!**

Our activities include performing **trash clean-ups** throughout the school grounds and surrounding community; oiling the teak benches in the breezeway; monitoring the classroom recycling bins; lobbying for energy conservation and **creating marker collection boxes** for our end-of-year Terracycle drive. The students are now quite familiar with how many and what type of trees are on the Saint Peter's campus through information gathered during our **tree survey**. They also **researched and selected the plants and shrubs** that will be planted in our rain garden this fall.

Email [Margaret.giron@gmail.com](mailto:Margaret.giron@gmail.com) with any questions or to get involved!

## Maryland Green Schools Certification

The Green Team's current focus is earning our *Maryland Green Schools Certification* through MAEOE's Maryland Green Schools Program. We are in our second and last year of our first application term and will be submitting for certification March 1, 2024.

### Why are we doing this?

Through curriculum enhancements, community partnerships, adult-driven environmental behavior changes, and student-driven initiatives, we will improve the school community's sustainable practices, look to alternative forms of energy, conserve the resources we use, and reduce & recycle our waste.

More information to follow!



Learn about MAEOE and its Green Schools Program:

[Green Schools Program](#)

## Application Requirements

### Prayer for the Environment

*Loving Creator God,  
We give you thanks for the beauty of creation.  
The earth is yours and you have commanded the wind and the seas.  
We live in a world full of variety and richness.  
Majestic mountains and forests to hike and relax in.  
Deep blue lakes to swim in and fish.  
Saltwater oceans to sail upon and surf.  
We rejoice in the majesty of what we see around us.  
Teach us to be responsible stewards of our world.  
Remind us not to damage or pollute land or water with plastic waste  
– and to leave our community spaces clean as we found them.  
May we always be vigilant to protect the earth – for this is our home  
– and home for future generations.  
May we walk gently upon Mother Earth,  
Amen*

### Be a Part of the Team!

The Green Team always needs more help! Some now, but mostly starting next year. Please click on the link below to fill out the Green Team Interest Form if you are interested in joining the team! Some of the activities needing help include:

- Taking over as Green Team Chair (or Co-Chair!)
- Helping with general coordination and oversight of the next Green Schools application (March 2028)
- Taking lead on a student-driven sustainable practice
- Maintaining the Green Team website and communications
- Coordinating our annual Green celebrations
- Becoming the Environmental Club Leader
- Helping to plan Environmental Club meetings
- Attending Environmental Club meetings to take photos and coordinate social media and Morning Show announcements

### Sign Up to Be a Part of the Green Team

### Green Partners and Resources

Saint Peter's can't go green alone! Here are some of our partners that we've worked with and resources that we've used throughout our journey

**Green Center:**  
Black Hill Nature Center



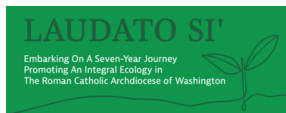
**Community Partner:**  
Green Olney



**Partner:**  
ADW Catholic Schools



**Partner:**  
ADW Office of Social Concerns / Laudato Si'



**Community Partner:**  
McDonnell Landscape

### Upcoming Events

**Friday, January 19**

- Father Daughter Dance

**Saturday, January 27**

- School Clean-Up

**Monday, February 5**

- Taste of the Season- CAVA

**Friday, February 9**

- Mother Son Dance

**Friday, March 22**

- Science Fair

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