

THE GREEN GAZETTE

VOICE OF THE **PCCS Green Team**
WINTER EDITION 2017

Programs in Review



The Green Apple Day of Service was a huge success! Lots of kids and their families participated in the three activities: chalkboard building, table painting, and making stepping stones. All this will help benefit PCCS. The chalkboards were already used over Thanksgiving break. You can see the tables and stepping stones behind the gym and behind the middle of the Comstock building. The stepping stones turned out so good that we

hope to do it again as a family program! Lauren Channy, one of our Green Team members said, “ It was a joyful, fun-filled morning.”



In December, we had over 50 people attend the Owl Prowl. Green Team members read *Owl Moon* to prepare us for our outdoor adventure, and then groups set off to call for owls and experience the winter night. One group heard an owl, but everyone enjoyed beautiful stars on a crisp clear night. Cocoa and cookies warmed us up at the end!

Green Valentine's Day

Valentine's Day is a time to tell those we care about that we love them... but it can also be a time to show how much we love the earth! Here are some suggestions for to make your V-Day a Green Day!

1. Compost your Valentine's flowers – If you get flowers for Valentine's Day, don't throw them away. Add those nutrients to your garden! If you're shopping for flowers, see if you can find ones that are organic and/or locally grown. Better yet, buy your loved ones a plant! Potted plants are gifts that keep on giving... beauty, improved air quality and more!
2. Enjoy the outdoors – For Valentine's Day, in lieu of buying a gift, plan a trip to a park or nature area to enjoy the great outdoors. See below for some ideas!
3. Make homemade goodies – Instead of buying a box of chocolates, why not make your own homemade sweets? If you want Valentine packaging, find a reusable container or decorate a shoebox.
4. Make cards out of reused/recycled paper and materials.
5. Buy fair trade chocolate... or keep your loved ones even healthier bu buying or making a fruit basket!
6. Here are some fun reused/recycled craft ideas:



Get Outside This Winter

You should go outside in winter. Just because it's cold doesn't mean you have to stay inside, you can go outside and have fun! There are lots of things to do outside in winter such as,

1. Have a (safe) snowball fight
2. Go sledding
3. Try Ice fishing
4. Make a snowman
5. Lay in the snow and make snow angels
6. Make snow forts
7. Go animal tracking and/or bird watching (see below)
8. Take a snow hike, or learn to cross country ski or snowshoe
9. After have hot cocoa to warm up!

Animal Tracks in Your Yard

This winter when the snow has fallen, head outside to see who else is in your yard. Tracking is a great activity to do with the family and get everyone outside! Ideally, you should wait several hours after the snow has fallen before you go tracking. This gives the animals time to get out and make some tracks!

Five common animal tracks found in your backyard are: rabbits, squirrels, house cat, domestic dog, and deer. [HERE](#) is a great link to find pictures of tracks to help you identify what you see!

Deer:



Rabbit:



PCCS is Recycling Plastic Bags!

You can recycle many different plastic films. Some of them are food storage bags, bubble wrap, ice bags, case overwrap, dry cleaner bags (without the hanger please!), produce bags, cereal bags, bread bags, and plastic packaging pouches (popped), AND NO FOOD! The Green Team can not take any food-contaminated or wet plastic for recycling. (NO CRUMBS IN BREAD BAGS PLEASE!) Also not recyclable are chip bags or dog-food bags that come with a foil-like lining.

Currently, Earth911 reports that only 13.5% of all recyclable plastic films are actually being recycled. And, unlike some recyclables, the recyclers are not at capacity and can accept more than they currently receive. We hope that your family will collect your plastic bags, films and wraps and bring them to PCCS! Collection bins are in the Comstock, Carson and Kennicott buildings! Thanks for all your help!

Coming Soon: Look for information in the coming weeks on our spring family program about herb gardening and cooking with herbs!

