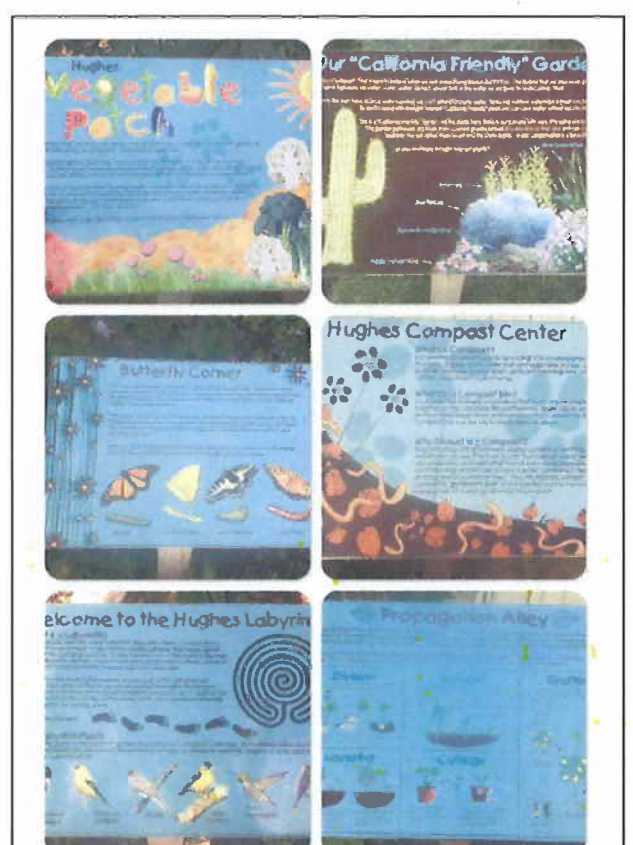


**Hughes Middle School  
National Green Ribbon School  
City Council Meeting, June 11, 2013**



## Hughes Goes Green Mission Statement:

Our campus has an impact on the environment. We are dedicated to reducing this impact through waste reduction and recycling, sustainable landscape practices, litter abatement, environmental education and community service.

Environmental Education Programs	Waste Reduction Programs
Recycling Assemblies	Campus Paper & Comingled Recycling & Auditing
Student Eco-Newsletter	Cafeteria Food Donations
Monthly Environmental Service Projects	Food Waste to Farm Program
Environmental Contests and Challenges	Terracycling – Chip Bags & Juice Pouches
Green Team Club	CRV – Plastic Bottles & Aluminum Cans
Bike Safety Training	Water-wise Landscape Program

<b>2012-13 Waste Diverted - 33.5 Tons</b>	
CRV	2 Tons
Comingled/ Paper	23 Tons
Cardboard	.7 Tons
Donated Food	2 Tons
Food Waste to Farm	.5 Tons
Books	1 Ton
Clothing	1.6 Tons
Terracycle (Chip Bags/Juice Pouches)	190 pounds
Paper Shred	2.7 Tons

<b>2012-13 Environmental Volunteer Hours – 1,751 Hours</b>	
Green Team Club	980 Hours
Community Service Projects	771 Hours
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Campus Work Days</li> <li>• No Trash Day</li> <li>• Book Drive</li> <li>• Beach Clean-up</li> <li>• Clothing Drive</li> <li>• Community Document Shred</li> <li>• Plant Sale</li> <li>• Campus Can Drive</li> <li>•</li> </ul>	

**Green Ribbon Recognition at City Council**  
**June 11, 2013**

1. **Hughes is Big!** Hughes is the largest middle school in Long Beach with 1600 students and over 100 staff.

We have one of the most diverse school populations in the state and over 57% of our students qualify for free or reduced rate lunches.

Within this context, our school exceeds all state academic targets.

2. **We Recycle!** In the last 7 years we have diverted over 300,000 pounds -- that is 150 tons! -- of material from the waste stream.

We collect paper, cardboard, bottles and cans, chip bags and juice pouches, food scraps, and whole food.

We also hold e-waste drives, document shreds, clothing drives, and book exchanges.

3. **We Landscape!** We have converted 18,000 square feet of turf grass into regionally appropriate landscape and increased the biodiversity of our campus.

We have a vegetable garden, an herb garden, a compost center, a California Friendly garden, a native grass garden, a shade garden, a propagation garden, a labyrinth, and we are building a water shed garden.

And all of these gardens – and all of our landscaping – is irrigated with reclaimed water.

We have even been hired by local businesses to design and install gardens.

4. **We Volunteer!** In just this year alone, we have given 1,800 volunteer hours to environmental service. That is more than an hour for every student and staff person on campus!

We have cleaned beaches, built benches, planted trees, and dug pathways. We have tiled, sorted, weighed, and washed. We have fundraised and written grants. That is kid power!

5. **We Educate!** We have educated our campus and our community on environmental issues. We have made posters, and banners, and announcements. We have written articles, held workshops, and made Youtube videos. Even the Mayor has starred in one of our Public Service Announcement videos!

6. **We Love Contests!** We look for contests that will push us to expand and improve our environmental work. We try to enter, or sponsor, eco-contests every year. This year we won the Battle of the Schools Recycling Competition for Los Angeles County – for the 4<sup>th</sup> year in a row – by recycling more material per capita and more different kinds of material than the other schools.

7. **We Appreciate The City's Support!** Since we are here before the City Council, we thought it would be a great opportunity to thank you for your support – and the support the City's Environmental Services Bureau. We could not have gotten where we are without their support, especially from Lisa Harris in particular.

- Environmental Services has provided us with 2 small recycle bins for EVERY CLASSROOM
- They have provided us with 18 (96) gallon bins for collecting all our classroom recycling.
- They have provided us with 6 (33) gallon bins for collecting our lunch recycling materials.
- They have supported our E-waste collections – at which we have collected over 18,239 pounds (9 tons).
- They have partnered with us to host No Trash Day and invited us to be part of their Earth Day celebrations
- They have showered us with recycling supplies and incentives – compost bins, worm bins, pencils, stickers, and coasters.
- They have championed our cause at every turn and have been instrumental in our success.
- So – we thank you Lisa and Environmental Services for helping us and our whole District divert hundreds of tons of material from the waste stream.

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- Environmental Services has provided us with 2 small recycle bins for EVERY CLASSROOM, 18 Large purple bins, and 6 medium size bins. AND WE USE THEM ALL EVERY DAY!
- They helped us collect 9 tons of E-waste.
- They partnered with us to host “No Trash Day” and invited us to be part of their Earth Day celebrations.
- They have showered us with recycling supplies – compost bins, worm bins, pencils, stickers, and coasters.
- They have championed our cause at every turn and have been instrumental in our success.
- So thank you Lisa and Environmental Services for helping us and our whole District divert hundreds of tons of material from the waste stream.

May/June

2013

# GREEN GAZETTE

**2012-13**

## **Recycling Goals**

**30 Tons** of Paper  
**4 Tons** of Glass,  
Plastic & Aluminum

### **Statistics to Date:**

23.7 Tons of Paper

3,104.5 lbs of Glass,  
Plastic & Aluminum

1,940 lbs of Books

3,229 lbs of Clothes

1,280 lbs of  
Cardboard

3,195 lbs of Donated  
Milk & Fruit

800 lbs of Food Scraps  
for Spring Street  
Farm Hens

## **Green Events for May/June:**

**Fill-This-Bag**

**Recycling Contest**

**May 30**

**"Green Dress" Day**

**June 6<sup>th</sup>**

**Little Free Library**

**Dedication**

**June 7<sup>th</sup>**

### ***HUGHES MIDDLE SCHOOL***

## **GREEN TEAM UPDATES & EVENTS**

# **Hughes Wins National Green Ribbon**

**By Kayla Taitt (6th grade)**

Congratulations to Hughes Middle School! Hughes became a National Green Ribbon School on Earth Day. The US Secretary of Education announced it. Hughes was one of only 64 schools nationwide to be selected. What makes Hughes stand out among Green

Schools? We have recycled over 120 TONS of material and are 3-time LA county recycling champions. We have made 18,000 square feet of gardens (including a vegetable garden, and a compost center). We collect almost 1,700 pounds of uneaten packaged food, milk, and fruit from the cafeteria every month

for the Salvation Army. We run eco-community service projects every month. We irrigate our landscaping with reclaimed water, and we were awarded the US EPA Energy Star 2012 energy conservation award, with a perfect score of 100. Yea Hughes!

# **Grow-ECO Earth Day Celebration!**

**By Melany Gonzalez and Calla Torres (6th graders)**

On Saturday, April 20, Hughes participated in Grow-ECO, which was an Earth Day celebration put together by the Long Beach Environmental Services Department. Hughes hosted 3 booths at the event: a Free Community

Document Shred, Plant Sale, and a "DIY" Reusable Sandwich Bag Workshop. Over 25 Green Team students worked the event – helping people carry their documents to the shred truck, selling plants, and sewing at the Workshop table.

At the end of the day, Hughes had shredded 5,300 pounds of documents, sold \$2,600 dollars of plants, and sewed over 200 reusable cloth sandwich bags! Other schools also participated in the day, including Stanford Middle School.



Every day more than 20 million sandwich bags are thrown away just in schools alone.

## Green Team Tip of the Month – Cut Back on Plastic Sandwich Bags

By Nick Addimando (7<sup>th</sup> grade)

Did you know that every day more than **20 million** sandwich bags are thrown away just in schools alone? We can lower that number of sandwich bags by using reusable containers – or you can make your own your own cloth sandwich bags from fabric scraps like the Green Team. Green Team students lead a

“DIY Sandwich Bag” workshop at the Grow-ECO Earth Day Fair on Saturday, April 20<sup>th</sup>. They sewed over 200 bags! If you’d like to try to make cloth lunch bags, you can see a great and SIMPLE tutorial for making reusable cloth bags at: [http://craftygemini.blogspot.com/2012/04/how-to-make-reusable-](http://craftygemini.blogspot.com/2012/04/how-to-make-reusable-sandwich-snack.html)

[sandwich-snack.html](http://craftygemini.blogspot.com/2012/04/how-to-make-reusable-sandwich-snack.html) If you are in a pinch, and you do decide to use a plastic sandwich bag,

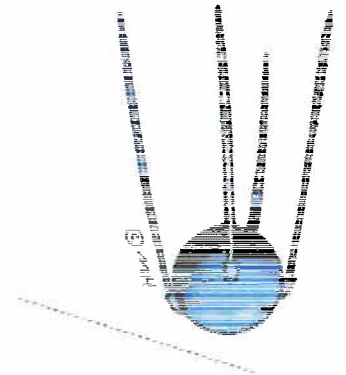


### What’s Growing?

What’s that vegetable that looks like a satellite from outer space? It’s a kohlrabi -- a “low, stout relative of cabbage.”

and juicy – like an apple. Kohlrabi can be eaten raw or cooked. The leaves can be used in any recipe that calls for chard, kale, or mustard greens.

Kohlrabi tastes a little like a broccoli stem or cabbage heart, but milder and sweeter. Young kohlrabi are crisp



### Green Team Recipe – Strawberry Ice Cream

#### Ingredients:

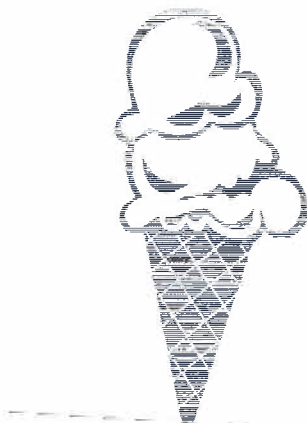
2 cups whole milk  
2 cups heavy cream  
1 cup white sugar  
¼ tsp salt  
2 tsp vanilla  
2 cups mashed fresh strawberries

#### Directions:

In a large bowl, combine the milk, cream, sugar, salt, vanilla, and strawberries.

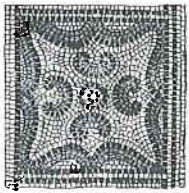
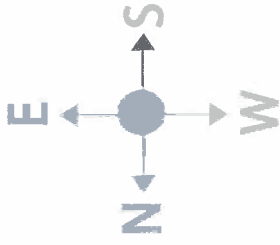
Pour the mixture into the freezer bowl of an ice

cream maker, and freeze according to manufacturer's directions.

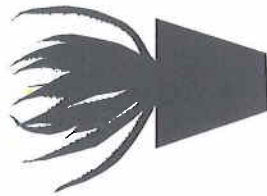




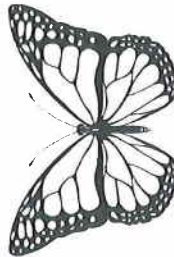
# Charles Evans Hughes Middle School Gardens



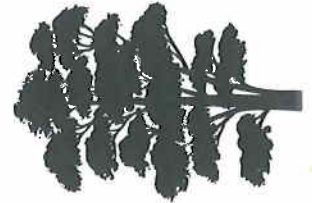
1. Mosaic Garden



2. Container Garden Corridor

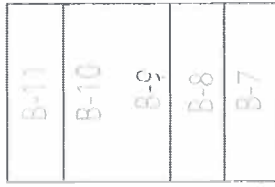


3. Butterfly Corner

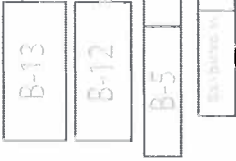


4. California Redwood Lane

Cerritos Avenue

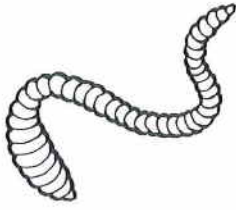
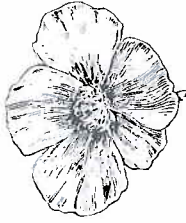


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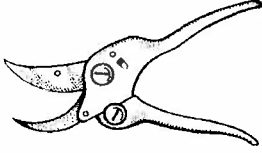


3

5. California Friendly Garden



6. Compost Center



7. Propagation Garden



8. Dry Shade Garden



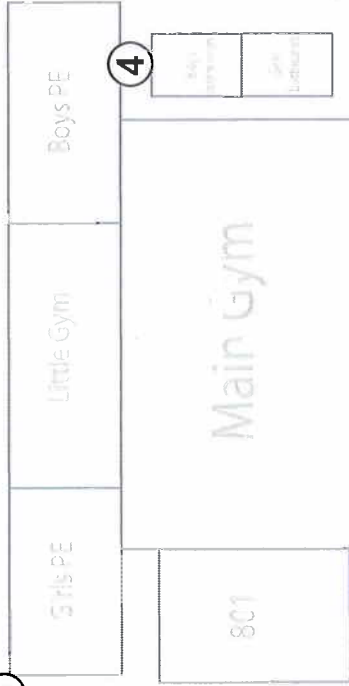
9. Hughes Labyrinth



10. Veggie Patch

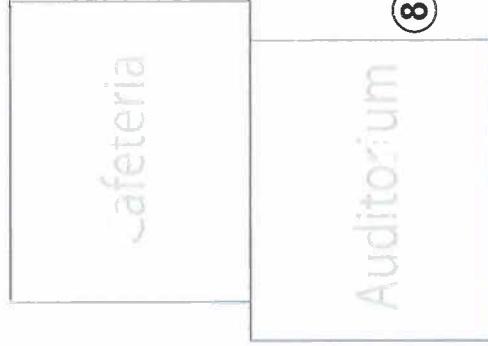


11. Herb Garden

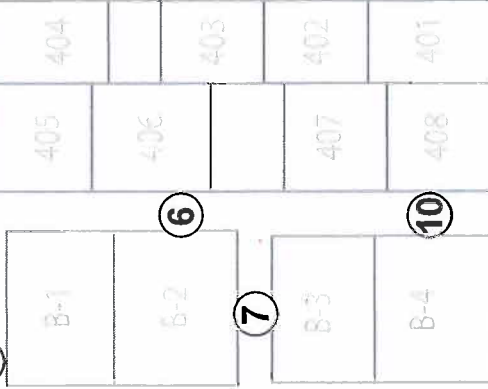


4

Lunch Area



8



5

6

7

10

9

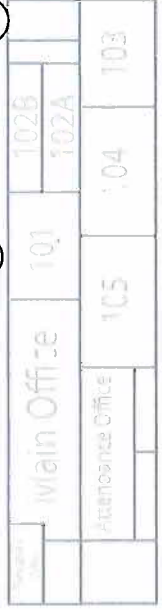
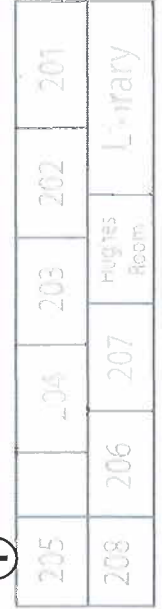
11

Bi by Road



1

Roosevelt Ave



California Avenue

# Hughes Green Guide & Gardens

In 2007, the Hughes Green Team began building small thematic gardens on campus. Each garden is designed to demonstrate sustainable landscape practices. Our garden goals include water conservation, rainwater retention, biodiversity and native habitat reclamation. All the gardens were built by Hughes students and their families. Enjoy!



**Mosaic Garden:** This garden centers around a compass rose mosaic in a decomposed granite patio area. All the plants included in the garden are hardy, drought tolerant varieties, including some native species. The garden is meant to showcase sustainable and low-maintenance alternatives to turf grass.



**Container Garden Corridor:** One option for creating a green corridor in a sea of asphalt is to plant in containers. The containers featured here are all examples of material-reuse. The largest planters were made from donated damaged recycle bins, the wooden planters were constructed from old fence material and broken pallets, and the smallest containers were originally plastic party tubs. Today this once barren black-top corridor features fruit trees, native shrubs, grasses and flowering perennials.



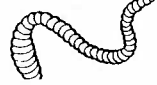
**Butterfly Corner:** As our urban environment develops, butterflies are becoming more scarce in Southern California. To counteract habitat destruction, Hughes has planted a series of small butterfly gardens. These gardens provide an oasis for native butterflies by including the host plants for several varieties of caterpillar and the nectar plants for the adult butterflies.



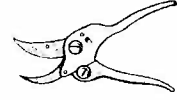
**California Redwood Lane:** The highlight of this garden is "Jimmy," our Sequoia sempervirens or California Redwood tree. This species includes the tallest trees on Earth. Prior to the 1850s, this tree grew abundantly all along the California coast – except in southern California where rainfall is not abundant enough (we have to provide Jimmy with supplemental water). Sadly, it is estimated that today 95% of the original old-growth redwood forest has been logged. Look for Jimmy towering over Hughes in the years to come.



**California Friendly Garden:** The average annual rainfall in Long Beach is just under 13 inches, which qualifies our area as a semi-desert. There are many "California Friendly" plants that will grow enthusiastically with just 13 inches of water a year. These plants make sense for our semi-desert environment because delivering water to Southern California requires a tremendous amount of electricity. By choosing less thirsty plants we can reduce our energy consumption. Water conservation is a beautiful thing!



**Compost Center:** Green waste from kitchens, gardens and yards constitute 25% of the waste hauled from homes. Instead of "trashing" green waste, composting is a more sustainable option. Composting is the controlled decomposition of green waste by microorganisms into a soil-like material called hummus. When added back to a garden, hummus provides plants with nutrients



**Propagation Garden:** Plants can be reproduced by germinating seeds or by a process known as "natural vegetative propagation." In natural vegetative propagation, new plants are grown from parts of a parent plant. Many of the plants in this garden were propagated by cutting a stem from a parent plant, removing several of the lower leaves from the stem, and planting the stem in the ground. Roots then form from the old leaf nodes. Succulents are particularly easy to propagate through stem cuttings, as are African daisy, sages, and many herbs.



**Dry Shade Garden:** This garden features tough plants that thrive in heavy clay soil, with little water, and only partial sun. Clay soil has several distinct characteristics; it is comprised of very fine, closely packed particles that deter oxygen from reaching plant roots. It retains moisture when wet, but can be difficult to rehydrate once it becomes dry. Clay soil can be improved by adding organic matter like mulch or compost -- but there are a few plants that flourish in clay, including the plants in this garden -- lily turf, fortnight lily, flame bush, and red apple succulents.



**Hughes Labyrinth:** Many people think that a labyrinth is a maze, but a labyrinth actually is a single spiraling pathway – the way in is the way out. Labyrinths are a very ancient phenomenon dating back thousands of years. Our labyrinth is planted primarily in California native plants. By including native plants in our garden design we reclaim habitat for many native insects and birds.



**Veggie Patch:** The average American dinner travels almost 1,500 miles from farm to table. In order to reduce the amount of gas used to transport foods these long distances, many people today are focusing on eating locally grown seasonal foods. Hughes grows a number of seasonal fruits and vegetables on campus and we have discovered that sustainability is truly delicious.



**Herb Garden:** Mint, bay leaf, sage, geranium, basil, yarrow, oregano, thyme, honeysuckle, feverfew, lemon balm – all of these culinary and medicinal herbs thrive in a Mediterranean climate, which is characterized by mild, wet winters and hot, dry summers. Mediterranean climates occur in just five regions of the world: the Mediterranean Basin, southwestern Australia, central Chile, the Western Cape of South Africa, and right here in coastal California. Many of the plants native to one region will grow happily in the others.