

'Young people incredibly active in sustainability issues'

Many kids take a passion for the planet back to school

By Katherine Roth

For many kids, heading back to school means more than resuming classes and homework. It means getting back to clubs and student organizations focused on sustainability — everything from composting and recycling to reducing food waste and promoting cleaner oceans and waterways.

"Young people tend to be incredibly active in sustainability issues, much more so than many adults," says April Peebler, executive director of Heirs to our Oceans (H2OO), a Berkeley, California-based organization that tries to help 12- to 17-year-olds from around the world learn about and advocate for the environment.

"There's a lot of passion there, and a strong desire to deal with the problems facing the environment that they are going to be inheriting."

Hannah Ono, 15, of Boston, has already been advocating for the environment for years. In fourth grade, she and some friends started a petition asking Dunkin Donuts to stop using Styrofoam cups. The Change.org petition drew 300,000 supporters, and helped persuade the company to ditch Styrofoam cups by

2020, she says.

"My next petition is for the City of Boston to ban Styrofoam containers. I just put it up a couple months ago on Change.org, and it has about 300 signatures so far," says Ono, a rising sophomore at Phillips Academy Andover.

She's also one of a group of students who got a \$1,000 grant from her school to raise awareness this year about sustainable fashion. "We want people to know more about where their clothes are coming from. Fast fashion can be really harmful for the environment," she says.

"We're going to be the ones living with the consequences of climate change, so it's important for us to take these steps," Ono says of her generation.

Perhaps the most famous teen dedicated to the environment is Greta Thunberg, the Swedish climate activist who inspired coordinated climate-change strikes around the world last year. She arrived in New York on Wednesday and will speak at the United Nations Climate Action Summit, then join world leaders who will present plans to reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

Thunberg is taking a year off school to pursue her activism.

Joelle Alley heads a California non-profit, EarthTeam, that offers a paid internship program for kids interested in sustainability. She says the group starts each school year by presenting their program to around 10 under-resourced high schools in the Richmond, California, area.

Recruit

"We recruit teams of 14 interns from each school, and the interns work with coaches to identify environmental problems on their campus and in their community. Then the kids come up with action campaigns to help solve the problems," Alley says.

The kids "have a unique perspective on their families and communities, and often spot issues that outsiders would miss. They walk everywhere, they hang out in parks, and they see a lot of things. We provide the structure and tools and resources, but they are the ones identifying the issues and coming up with campaigns," she says.

Through the Food Recovery Network, one of the largest student-led movements fighting food waste and hunger, students at college campuses in 44 states and the District of Columbia connect with college dining



This June 22, 2019 photo provided by Heirs To Our Oceans shows students at San Gregorio Creek learning the techniques and importance of water testing and citizen science with a hands on testing session at San Gregorio Beach in San Gregorio, Calif. This was one of five locations tested during the Summit for Empowerment Action and Leadership (SEAL). (AP)

halls, local shelters and food pantries to make sure excess food is delivered to those in need, instead of going into the trash.

Coach

"We coach and mentor students to help them build local food recovery programs," says the organization's

5,000 college students," as well as some high school-age volunteers, she says. Educators say students who care about sustainability can have a huge impact, particularly as they enter the workforce.

"We're seeing this manifest in two ways," says Jonathan Deutsch, professor of Food and Hospitality Management in the College of Nursing and Health Professions at Drexel University, in Philadelphia, where the Food Recovery Network has been active for years.

"Students are very mindful of their own impact, opting for reusable water bottles and coffee mugs. But it's taken to a much wider-reaching level in the case of students in professional programs. Someone studying to be a food service manager in a hospital, for example, who is launching their career with a sustainability-oriented mindset, really moves the needle," he says. "They are making decisions about thousands of meals a day, and that adds up to a huge environmental impact."

Thunberg told political and business leaders in Davos recently: "I don't want you to be hopeful. I want you to panic. I want you to feel the fear I feel every day. And then I want you to act." (AP)

click

Museum

Latest

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How to Enter the Contest

■ The contest begins on Sept 1, 2019. Submissions will be accepted through Oct 15, 2019. Winner will be announced via the website of the Ministry and its Missions/Posts, social media websites and by direct contact to the winners' email accounts. In order for the entry to be submitted and reviewed by the judges, all entries must be:

■ Submitted directly to PIC Wing, Embassy of India, Kuwait (pic.kuwait@mea.gov.in)

■ Submitted in their original source file.

Sept 11

IWN Kuwait meeting: Mia van der Heijden and An Swinnen will chair the third meeting of the International Women's Network Kuwait (IWNK) at the Regency on Sept 11, 2019.

An Swinnen, Managing Director of BECS which is a corporate training company delivering business, management and health courses and a Solution Focused Psychotherapist will explain in a simple and fun way how the brain works, what causes depression, anxiety, depression and burnout and more importantly, what can be done about it.

Those attending will be given a brain based "Toolbox" to learn to control mood and improve all aspects of life. Alison Shan Price MBE will chair a follow-up session of the social, cultural and business discussions with the information gathered from members at the previous meeting. After an introduction round of members there will be a networking session.

The International Women's Network Kuwait welcomes women of all sectors, ages, nationalities and backgrounds. If you are interested in joining please contact Mia van der Heijden at IWNkuwait@gmail.com or join our LinkedIn group "International Women Network Kuwait".

Sept 13

BTC training workshop: Bhavans Toastmasters Club (BTC) is conducting a training session on Impromptu speaking on Sept 13, 2019, Friday from 5:30 pm to 8 pm. The trainer is the DTAC 2019 champion DTM Nancy Vijo.

Impromptu speaking or table topic session is the signature segment of a toastmasters meeting, wherein speaker gives one to two minutes on any topic given in the stage. The specialist is that the speaker has to speak on the subject within a few seconds once he gets the topic. It should be a fulfilled speech with an introduction, body and conclusion.

Toastmasters International is a non-profit organisation which offers a wide range of activities to improve one's communication and leadership skills. An active toastmaster will learn public speaking and interpersonal skills along with ability to deal with unprepared questions during a business meeting or interview. The toastmaster's program is designed in such a way that it will boost your confidence and toughen you up to deal with difficult situations.

Impromptu speaking helps you to think on the feet and talk. It helps our brain to process an idea quickly and form an opinion about it and present it in front of the audience in an organized manner.

Toastmasters and people who are interested in public speaking can attend the event. It will be an interactive session, a life changing experience for you.

Please register for this free seminar using the link below.

https://forms.gle/c813gd5p8ZQG-9mK8

To know more about the activities of Bhavans Toastmasters and this program please contact TM Sunil Thomas Varghese Mob: 66265702 or DTM Anilkumar Revanker Mob: 99320125.

STECI Kuwait marks 54 yrs: St Thomas Evangelical Church of India (STECI) Kuwait Parish is celebrating its 54th anniversary on Friday, Sept 13 at 6:30 pm at South Tent, NECK. In connection with the celebration, we have decided to conduct a "Dyanayogam" on Thursday, Sept 12 at KTMCC Hall of NECK at 7 pm. Rev John Mathew (Vicar, St Thomas Evangelical Church) will preside both the meetings. This year's guest speaker Rev Levin Koshy (Vicar



Children from Christian Brothers School try to catch toy catfish with nets while in a pirogue, a cajun boat, during a preview of the Louisiana Children's Museum, at its new location in City Park, in New Orleans, Aug 27, 2019. (AP)



First graders Heidi Pfefferle and Roman Iacono, of Christian Brothers School, color objects during a preview of the Louisiana Children's Museum. (AP)



First grader Sophia Lirette, of Christian Brothers School, plays with a trumpet during a preview of the Louisiana Children's Museum. (AP)



First graders Caroline Bode and Henry Davis, from Christian Brothers School, play in an outdoor area during a preview of the Louisiana Children's Museum. (AP)

Museum offers far more hands-on, even hands-in experience

Louisiana's oldest kids' museum opens new \$47.5m home

By Janet McConaughy

Louisiana's oldest children's museum has a shiny new home with spaces for kids of all ages, from those just learning to crawl to those who want a close-up view of a cicada's delicate wings.

The Louisiana Children's Museum's new \$47.5 million environmentally conscious building is opening in City Park. The campus includes lots of outside space to run around in, a toddler play area with a small picnic table, and a small lagoon with a floating classroom.

Indoors, a "sensory lagoon" includes a ramp with pillows over which small children can crawl up to a veterinary waterbed decorated to look like a lily pond and nearly surrounded by mirrors.

"They love the sound," CEO Julia Bland said, kneeling down and pushing the top to make the water slosh.

It's in the "Play with Me" area designed for babies, toddlers, and their

grown-ups.

As scientists have learned more about very early learning, children's museums have come to see babies as "valuable and valued museum visitors," said Laura Huerta Migus, executive director of the Association of Children's Museums. "How do we create enriching environments specifically designed to enhance children's overall development? ... It's about giving access to those objects that even babies can touch and begin to understand the world around them."

Target

"Young people between the ages of six and twenty years" were the target audience when the first children's museum, the Children's Museum of Brooklyn, opened in 1899, according to an article in a 1900 edition of "Scientific American." The page-long article mentioned "a splendid series of twenty-four anatomical models" including a 5-foot-long (1.5-meter) silkworm and a 3-foot-long (nearly 1-meter) snail that lecturers could "dissect" to

illustrate internal workings.

Children's museums, like the one in New Orleans, now are far more hands-on, even hands-in.

"Splashing is a child's joyful exploration of water," reads a sign in a small kid-waist-high pool. "When children splash in a puddle or tub, they are testing how water behaves and how their actions affect it."

The pools stand in front of a photographic mural showing the Mississippi River's headwaters in Minnesota — one of the few pieces of wall art that wasn't reproduced from a child's drawing. On the fountains' other side is the start of a 100-foot-long (30.5-meter) winding metal Mississippi River filled with flowing water.

"This is our biggest exhibit, our most expensive exhibit and probably the most important in terms of global and local issues," Bland said.

Hand-driven pumps represent the various rivers that flow into the Mississippi. Just before "New Orleans" a metal gate can be opened to show how a spillway — like the one opened for

more than 120 days this year because the Mississippi was so high — can divert part of the river's flow.

Another section is about nature, with stuffed toys for smaller kids to play veterinarian. For older ones, there's a video microscope hooked to an HDTV screen and a host of insects, minerals, bones, plant specimens and other samples to look at.

One of the largest galleries is all about food, including a grocery store, kitchen and café.

Campus

"Nobody's ordering cappuccino! And it's so good!" Sophia Lirette, 6, said as some of her schoolmates at Christian Brothers School — which also has a campus in the 1,300-acre (5.3-square-kilometer) City Park — carried tray after tray heaped high with plastic tacos, muffins, chicken, crawfish and more. The kids were taking part in a preview of the museum Tuesday.

There's also a kidsized take on the brightly painted truck driven by Ar-

thur James Robinson, better known as "Mr Okra." Robinson used to drive around New Orleans selling fruits and vegetables in the city's neighborhoods from the back of his truck, calling out to residents about what he had available.

At the front of the truck is a map of city neighborhoods that can change to pictures of produce. Bland said they recorded Robinson's calls before he died in February 2018. Touch a picture of green beans, and Robinson's voice sings out, "I got green beans!"

The museum's outdoor area includes a "pelican's nest" where kids can weave a rope nest, a set of shiny steel drums, an edible garden, and two floating islands of native plants on anchored beds of recycled plastic. The islands are for birds, not children; swans and ducks are among the birds that have used them, said museum spokeswoman Leslie Doles.

One outdoor sign notes: "Playing in nature is good for kids. ... Dirt, scratches, and bumps are part of natural play." (AP)

St Paul's CSI Church Ahmadi) will share the Word of God. Arrangements are being made under the leadership of Vicar Rev John Mathew, Secretary Boney K. Abraham and Treasurer Biju Samuel for the success of the celebration. For more details contact: Vicar, Mob. 9960 17399

TLC Annual Ministry Fair: The Ladies Church (TLC) welcomes you for its Annual Ministry Fair and celebration of all English Worship

Services. Visit our 30+ exhibits and children's program on Friday, Sept 13, 2019 at the Divvan Hall, Kuwait City. Breakfast 7:30 – 8:45 am Exhibits 8:00 – 8:45 am Workshop Service 9:00 – 11:00 am Ministry Exhibits 11:00 – 12 noon Parking is available on site. We hope to meet you at this exciting event.

Please contact: 2243 1087, 2245 0308 tlcukwail.com

Oct 4

IAK 'Onanilavu 2019': Idukki Association Kuwait will hold mega Onam celebration "Onanilavu-2019", on Oct 4, 2019 from 9.30AM till 6.30PM at British Nottingham School auditorium, Abbassiya. Popular Malayalam film actor Manoj K. Jayan will be the chief guest of "Onanilavu 2019". In addition to various art performances, "Mansoon Beats" the musical show by Ms. Soumya Sanathanan will be the main attraction of the event. Ms. Soumya is a well known music composer, play back singer, who is

also known for making first "Acapella solo" in Malayalam and for the solo performance by using around 12 musical instruments. Also, a traditional Onasadya will be a part of the celebration.

General

Timbre Talkers meeting: Timbre Talkers has completed almost 9 years in Kuwait and is a dynamic and happening club with stalwarts and winners

who have represented it to the Division and District levels. "Timbre" means the pitch of sound and each and every member represents a unique sounding speech which resonates as a stupendous orchestra when played together. Our Club meets every first and third Tuesdays at 7.00 pm at Better Books in Salmiya. Our members not only look forward to the innovative meetings but also to the yummy food our members bring from home.

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