



CAMPUS NEWS



FUNDING OUR NEED

by Dan Reynolds

\$1 Million Lead Gift

The Green House Venture is excited to announce that it has received its first leadership gift toward its \$6 Million Growing Forward campaign. The \$1 million commitment is a significant step forward and gives energy and pace to a campaign effort that has been building momentum over the past several months. "This gift is having quite an impact," says Tom Purcell, President of the GHV. "The funds have allowed us to move forward with construction planning and make the project more real." The individual donor, who wishes to remain anonymous, believes in the creative and collaborative model of the new Education Center at The GHV campus. The donor hopes that the gift will help to build confidence and enthusiasm for the project and that it will serve to inspire others who wish to help realize the vision of a facility that will enrich science education in St. Louis and beyond for years to come. For information on how you can participate in the campaign, please contact Tom Purcell at 314-604-8050.



GROWING FORWARD

The Campaign for

**THE GREEN HOUSE
VENTURE**
IMPROVING SCIENCE
EDUCATION AND
CHILDHOOD NUTRITION

SITE/DESIGN

PETER BENOIST

Peter Benoist
Appointed Chair of Site Committee

With the retirement of David Reid, Peter Benoist has been appointed Chair of the Site Committee for the Green House Venture. Peter has served on the Committee for the last four years, and he is taking on the leadership role at a pivotal time as we move into high gear with our initiative to build the new Education Center.

Peter's credentials make him ideally suited for the role. Having spent his entire career in the construction industry, he has been the President of Hercules Construction Management Company since 1994.

"I am excited to be on the Board, and honored to take over as Chair of the Site Committee," said Peter. "We have a solid foundation to move forward to final approvals that will be needed for the design and construction of the Education Center. The design team is being formed, and they will be presented to the board for approval in the next couple of months."

This is an exciting time for everyone connected with the Green House Venture. Our fundraising campaign for the construction of the Education Center is underway, and we have already received a lead gift of \$1 million from a generous donor. With that financial spark and other donations to come, we are well on the path to completing the crown jewel of the GHV Campus in time for fall semester 2024.



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PROUD PRINCIPALS UPDATE STEM ACTIVITIES AT ALLIANCE SCHOOLS

As the country's educational system begins to recover from the impact of the Covid pandemic, the Urban Education Alliance schools participating in the Green House Venture are busy reviving STEM education in multiple ways.

Here is a summary of STEM activities and plans from the principals at each of the Alliance schools.

In addition to their continued involvement in Venture activities like our Ambassadors Program and working on our newly completed Terrance Garden, the schools are undertaking programs of their own that complement the spirit and mission of the Green House Venture.

St. Margaret of Scotland

Our 8th-grade Physical Science class has been learning about magnetism and electricity. Through exploration and discovery, Mrs. Caitlin O'Toole, our Middle School science teacher, introduced the students to different types of magnets and taught them about the north and south poles. In addition, the students learned about how to attract and repel, what materials are magnetic, and the varying strengths of magnets.

The 6th and 7th grade Life Science classes have begun a unit on evolution. First, the students brainstormed how modern and prehistoric species could be alike or related. Then they observed different fossils, including a megalodon tooth, an ammonite, an allosaurus tooth, and more. Finally, the students worked in groups to compare the similarities between these species and their descendants. With after-class instruction on Charles Darwin, natural selection, fossil records, and other proof of evolution, the students are working on a project comparing and contrasting an extinct prehistoric species with its modern relative.



PROUD PRINCIPALS UPDATE SCIENCE ACTIVITIES AT ALLIANCE SCHOOLS CONTINUED

St. Louis Language Immersion School

This year has unfortunately been another year with covid! Despite that, one of the things we've been excited about this year is our partnership with the MySci program. This program allows us to access science materials and lessons that align with our newly developed Pre-K through 8th grade science curriculum! I'm not sure if you're familiar with MySci, but you can learn more here:

<https://myscipartners.com/>.

Unfortunately, things have been pretty quiet with our involvement in the Greenhouse Venture this year. We are now located downtown, and add that to the covid situation and we haven't been able to engage as we did in years past with our students. We're looking forward to things moving towards a bit more normalcy!

Tower Grove Christian Academy

Our theme this year at Tower Grove Christian Academy is "blessings". We have incorporated this theme into our classrooms and curriculum all throughout the school year. This fall, we were blessed to be able to partner with another school to offer a co-op wrestling program. This spring, we were blessed to be able to get new Smart boards for our classrooms. We are excited to have the opportunity to increase technology integration and enrich student learning as we finish out the 2021-2022 school year.

Mullanphy Investigative Center

Mullanphy was happy to welcome approximately 475 students back to campus for the 21-22 school year. To celebrate our school population, Mullanphy focused on International Cultures in January and Diversity in February. Since spring is just around the corner, volunteers, staff, students and parents are beginning to get our garden ready for spring plantings.



THE LEARNING CURVE

by Donald Stump, Curriculum Director

As the first shoots of spring appear on the Embankment Greenway along I-44, the teaching teams of the Venture are coming back to life. After two years without access to our partner schools, we're excited to return (Covid allowing) to assisting them in providing first-rate STEM education in the heart of St. Louis.

During our fallow years, we complete construction of the Greenway, seeded it with thirty species of native flowering and nutting plants, built our Terrace Garden, finished plans for our Education Center, and began the silent phase of our \$6 million donor campaign to have the facility open by 2024. We also finished a draft of a publishable three-year Curriculum for our Ambassadors After-School Program. Now, as Covid wanes, we're hoping to get back to working with kids.

First on the agenda is bringing them out of their classroom 'bubbles' to visit the Embankment and enjoy the sunshine. Joined by a new army of volunteers from the Missouri Master Gardeners Program, we've been cleaning out beds and brainstorming ways to pique kids' curiosity and meet their families as we prepare to restart Ambassadors and our Classroom-Outreach Program in the fall. Outings in May will provide students with a foretaste of things to come. Drawing on the Venture's alliance with the St. Louis Zoo and Coahoma-Orchard growers, some students will visit the Terrace Garden to learn about Native-American agriculture. Others will join faculty from Harris-Stowe State University to plant species traditional in African-American cuisine or work with Master Gardeners in our East Asian and herb terraces. Still others will explore our pollinator-recovery prairie, learning about ecosystems where native bees thrive in symbiosis with native plants.

If all goes well, our spring outings will lead to others in summer and fall, with students returning to observe species they planted as they mature, flower, fruit, and shed seeds. At the festival of Harvest Home, we hope to be celebrating—and sharing unusual salads.



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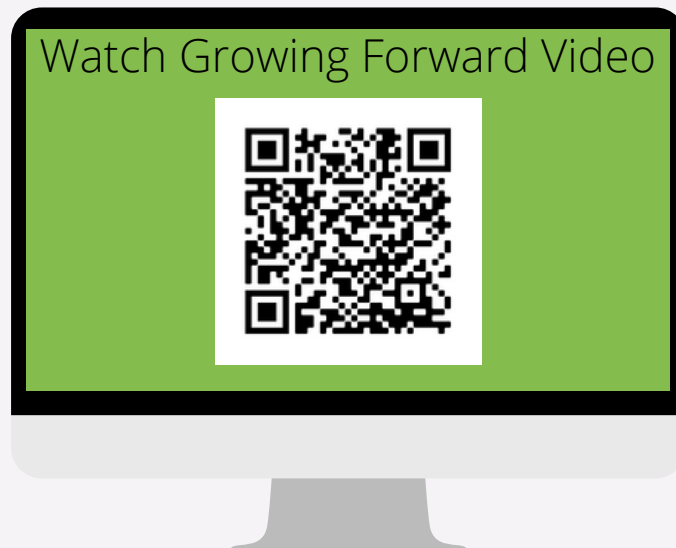


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<http://www.greenhousetl.org>



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