



The Holmes JHS Green Team and their advisers, show off their “3-D” Recycling posters. They are also proud of the Holmes JHS new raised garden beds that make them accessible to all students, including those with disabilities.

Holmes JHS Green Team Interview by Michelle Millet

Science teacher Martha Quenon formed the Green Team at Holmes Junior High 6 years ago with the intention to raise awareness of environmental issues among students. Since that time the group has evolved into one that has taken a hands on approach to reducing the amount of waste generated on their campus, and is receiving this year’s Cool Davis Eco-Hero Award for their efforts.

Ninth grader Green Team member Hailey Shapiro is receiving special recognition for, as Quenon describes, her tireless work towards implementing a sustainable composting and recycling system through out the Holmes Campus. Hailey says one of the biggest challenges she faces is getting other kids to care about recycling. In an effort to do so, she and Green Team members developed a classroom presentation designed to teach fellow student about the recycling and composting programs.

Keri Hawkins, a para-educator on campus, took over the reigns of the green team in January. In support of the Green Teams efforts, Keri has designed garden beds that are accessible to students with disabilities, written and received grants that help fund the gardening and recycling program at Holmes, and facilitated the Green Team’s recycling efforts by instigating their participation in the Keep California Beautiful K-12 Recycling Challenge, a state wide school competition promoting waste reduction and recycling.

Keri and the Green Team members have taken several steps to improve diversion rates on the Holmes Campus. They color coded collection bins to be consistent with the City of Davis’ and stream lined the bin locations. They also created 3-D posters to help educate students staff about what items can be recycled in which bins.

Hawkins hopes that recycling and composting programs will at some point be integrated into the DJUSD strategic plan and that their efforts at Holmes can serve as model for other schools to follow. Cool Davis is pleased to recognize the work of both the Green Team and its leaders with a Climate Solution Award.