



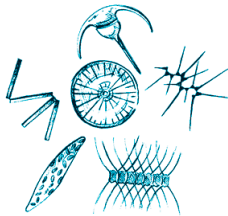
June 2009 Edition

In This Newsletter:

1. World Oceans Day 2009!
2. School Program Updates
3. Action Challenge Contest
4. Featured Resources for Educators
5. Green Calendar - Upcoming Events
6. Did you know?
7. Feature Donor
8. Contact Us

Did you know?

The base of the marine food chain is the tiny, free-floating organism called phytoplankton, on which almost all other life in the sea is dependent. They produce about 50 percent of our oxygen supply, so in fact all life on Earth depends on these tiny creatures!



Join the Club

Are you a Sierra Club BC member? Consider becoming one today - your support helps us develop and maintain

World Oceans Day 2009!

As of 2009, [World Oceans Day](#) has been officially declared by the United Nations as June 8th each year! This is a huge step forwards in conserving and protecting our world's oceans. Wherever you live, you are connected to the ocean. Small changes that you make to your everyday lives can have an effect on our blue planet. Covering 70% of the earth's surface, the ocean helps to absorb excess carbon dioxide, provides jobs and food to people all over the world, and regulates climate and temperature. World Oceans Day is an opportunity to bring attention to the affects of climate change on our oceans, and how it will impact both humans and ocean life. It will also bring attention to the simple changes that we can make to reduce CO2 emissions and keep our oceans healthy for future generations to enjoy.

School Program Updates

Another school year is coming to a close. The time has flown by! Our team will shortly be returning from their last road trip. This year our fantastic team have had to stay a little closer to home. We have concentrated our efforts in Greater Victoria, the Comox Valley, Cowichan Valley and Vancouver. Ali and Helena have been spreading the good word in elementary schools almost daily, delivering fun and energetic environmental programs to over 3300 students between Kindergarten and grade 8! An awesome accomplishment! Amy and Ali (yes Ali has been busy!) have had an extremely successful year in high schools bringing the Sustainable High Schools Project to over 40 classrooms! The Education Program currently has a much smaller capacity than in previous years, and has still been extremely successful. Thank you to a hugely dedicated team! [You can read about some of their highlights this year and some of the awesome schools they got to visit.](#) We would like to thank the schools in B.C. who continue to support our program. We hope to see you again next year!

our school programs. Click here for more info.

Feature Donor

We would like to thank **Backstage Technologies** for their great support of our Education Programs.



Action Challenge Contest

We have had some amazing reports back from the elementary classrooms this year. The students have obviously been very inspired by Ali and Helena's visits. We would like to congratulate Mr Murphy's grade 6/7 class at Sir Richard McBride Elementary School in Vancouver. They have made re-usable bags out of old clothing, lip-balm made with beeswax, olive oil and orange essence AND they have set up a total of six classroom composts. They had a visit from two city farmers who taught the students all about composting. We also heard about some amazing actions carried out by Ms Solecki's Grade 1 class and Mrs Mead's Grade 2 class at Strawberry Vale Elementary in Victoria, Ms Triste's students at Maria Montessori, and Madame Dibiase's classroom at Ecole Quadra Elementary. They will all receive runners up prizes. [You can read about them all here!](#) Thank you to all of the teachers who encouraged and inspired their students to take action, and took the time to report back to us. Have a wonderful summer everyone!

Featured Resources for Educators

- [World Oceans Day Celebration Ideas](#)
- Lesson Plan: [The Density of Saltwater](#)
- Lesson Plan: [Let's make Waves](#)
- Lesson Plan: [How does an oil spill affect the ocean?](#)

Green Calendar - Upcoming Events

Be sure to check our [online calendar](#) for upcoming events! And please [contact us](#) if you have an event for posting.

- Victoria, BC. [Seakeepers and Friends at the Inner Harbour: Monday June 8th 2009.](#)
- Surrey, BC. [Birds on the Bay: Sunday June 7th.](#)
- Campbell River, BC. [Ocean's Day Festival: Saturday June 6th.](#)



This e-newsletter is brought to you by the Environmental Education Program at the Sierra Club BC, a [Green Street](#) accredited program. [Find out more](#) about Sierra Club BC, B.C.'s oldest and best-known conservation organization.



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