

BOSTON SCHOOLYARD INITIATIVE

Schoolyard News

March 2011



What's Happening at BSI

Check out our recently renovated website! www.schoolyards.org

New! OWW lessons online: BSI is working with BPS to integrate Outdoor Writers Workshop (OWW) into the BPS writing curriculum. The new *BPS Writing Curriculum K-5 maps* provide suggested lessons using the outdoor classroom for each unit by grade.

Check out the [BSI Teaching Resources](#) page for OWW lessons. For more information, contact [Kristin Metz](#) or [Ann Deveney](#).



Share your Green Thumb Ideas

Do you garden in your schoolyard? Or successfully partner with someone in your community to care for your

Welcome to the new Boston Schoolyard Initiative (BSI) newsletter! Our vision is that this newsletter and our website, www.schoolyards.org, will be vehicles for sharing the best ideas and successes on BSI schoolyards. If you have photos, experiences or schoolyard ideas you'd like us to share, please send them [here](#) and we'll consider featuring them in an upcoming newsletter. In the meantime, enjoy Spring in the schoolyard!

Myrna Johnson
Executive Director

In the News

BSI and Boston Public School Teachers Featured on Science Curriculum Website

The Boston Schoolyard Initiative's (BSI) Science in the Schoolyard™ video, which features Boston Public School teachers, is now featured on the website of the Full Option Science System (FOSS)™ -- an inquiry-based....[read more.](#)

Good Idea Showcase

Signs of Spring

Now is a great time to start looking for Signs of Spring in your schoolyard. According to Neil McCarthy, the BSI/BPS horticulturist, in March and April you will start to see: Witch-hazel blooming yellow or orange; Cherry trees with pink blossoms; and Serviceberry buds beginning to swell and bloom white.

Adventures into the outdoor classroom could provide a chance for some **Science in the Schoolyard** discoveries as spring arrives. Last February, a fifth grade class at Otis Elementary prepared for an exploration into the schoolyard and was surprised to find a flowering bush! Encouraged by last years results, Boston Schoolyard Initiative wants to know what signs of spring your students find in these last lingering days of wintry weather! [read more](#)

In the Community

The Act FRESH Campaign Kick-off to Impact All Massachusetts Communities

An electric buzz of excited voices filled the Massachusetts State House conference room Monday February 7, 2011 as attendees waited for the kick-off of the Act FRESH Campaign. The agenda of the campaign is broken down into four initiatives that collectively work to improve the standard of living in all Massachusetts communities....[read more.](#)

Outdoor Classroom? If yes, please share your story with [Mary Margaret Sloan](#), BSI's stewardship consultant. We would like to feature some of your good ideas with other schools on our website and in next month's newsletter.

About Us

The Boston Schoolyard Initiative is a public-private partnership between the City of Boston, Boston Public Schools, and the Boston Schoolyard Funders Collaborative. Since 1995, the **Boston Schoolyard Initiative** (BSI) has been transforming Boston's schoolyards from barren asphalt lots into dynamic centers for recreation, learning and community life. School-by-school, neighborhood-by-neighborhood, BSI has reached children, families, community members and teachers with vibrant outdoor spaces for increased physical activity and creative new approaches to using the schoolyard for teaching and learning.
