

# SUSTAINABILITY

## NEWSLETTER



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#### **HAVE SUGGESTIONS? WE WANT TO HEAR FROM YOU!**

Suggestions for Cranbrook Sustainability and Newsletter ideas to [sustainability@cranbrook.edu](mailto:sustainability@cranbrook.edu).

Cranbrook Sustainability Newsletter is published for Cranbrook Educational Community.

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# Spotlight on Sustainability

## with Norma Jean Evans

*Sustainability Matters!*

Hope your new year is off to a Sustainable start!

This year, to increase awareness, we will begin sharing mini Spotlights on Sustainability at Cranbrook. In this and future editions, we will showcase the voice of Cranbrook through interviews with students, volunteers and employees who are passionate and committed to sustainability. This month, we have highlighted Michele Arquette-Palmero, Head of Fresh Water Forum, Cranbrook Institute of Science. We will continue to highlight strategic and program sustainability initiatives (people, profit and planet), as well as activities and events happening across the campus and beyond.

Our goal is to clarify the mission and vision of sustainability at Cranbrook. Also, ensure everyone understands the Cranbrook definition of sustainability, why we should practice it and the impact on Cranbrook and the wider community. Most critical, is to be more intentional in prioritizing our resources, time, actions and behaviors to reflect our steady commitment to the program. Paramount to our success will be to make clear the reasons why student, volunteer and employee participation at every level is important to the future of Cranbrook.

Cranbrook wants to hear your thoughts about sustainability. You can always email us at: [sustainability@cranbrook.edu](mailto:sustainability@cranbrook.edu). Later this year, we will request your input on sustainability with a survey from Rod Spearin, Chief Operating Officer.

In the meantime, let us each focus on and practice our individual commitment to the Cranbrook Sustainability Program mission and vision in our roles and daily activities.

Sustainability Matters,

Norma Jean Evans  
Director Sustainability & Business Services

### **Cranbrook Sustainability Program**

#### Mission

The Cranbrook Educational Community provides extraordinary education, encourages creativity and innovation, and values learners of all ages and backgrounds. Cranbrook develops those who will lead with purpose, create with passion, explore with limitless curiosity and strive for excellence

#### Vision

To be a diverse, sustainable community where education is prized, the human spirit is nurtured, and boundaries to innovation and creativity are few. Cranbrook is an institution that challenges the mind and changes lives for the better.

#### Commit to a Program of Sustainability

The responsible use of resources of all types is increasingly critical to survival and success. From how we use energy and the environment, to the efficiency of our facilities, business practices and people, we commit to the success of future generations through our actions and behaviors

# Sustainability Showcase: What Does Sustainability Mean to You? Q&A with Cranbrook Institute of Science Head of Freshwater Forum Michele Arquette-Palmero



**Question:** Why are you passionate about sustainability?

**Answer:** I grew up with an 80- acre backyard, catching frogs, playing hide and go seek in the woods and building sand castles on the great lakes. I have dedicated my career to sustainability so that my sons and future generations can have clean water.

**Question:** What is your definition of sustainability? Sustainability to me is using the resources we have today in a conservative way, so we make those resources last as long as possible, protect wildlife habitats and natural places.

**Question:** How are you making a difference at Cranbrook Institute of Science?

**Answer:** Through my position at Cranbrook Institute of Science, I have an opportunity to help fuel my passion while impacting the lives of thousands of people each year. Some of our team accomplishments at Cranbrook and beyond:

## Rouge River Water Festival

- Established 2003: served over 35,000 teachers and students.

## Water on the Go!

- Established 2007: served over 105,000 teachers and students.

## Special Events and Programs

- Engaged over 160,000 teachers, students and museum visitors.

## Water Heritage Traveling Great Lakes Exhibition

- Debuted in 2018, the exhibition visited seven communities and engaged over 20,000 individuals throughout Michigan.

## Great Lakes Field Ecology Course

- First offered in the Summer of 2019 this graduate level course led students from Johns Hopkins University on a 10-day field course that provided students with a first-hand opportunity to immerse themselves in the system, interact with individuals involved in monitoring, education, policymaking, threat management, advocacy and governance.

**Question:** How can we help?

**Answer:** We need Volunteers for the following events to be held at Cranbrook Institute of Science.

Spring into Science: April 6-10, 2020

River Rouge Water Festival: September 15-18, 2020

Interested volunteers, please email me at [marquette-palmero@cranbrook.edu](mailto:marquette-palmero@cranbrook.edu).





## PROGRAM SPOTLIGHTS

### **Cranbrook Schools - What's New! Tray-less Dining Initiative**

*Contributing Allison Mitchell, Chartwells*

Staying consistent with Cranbrook's Green awareness, the schools have begun the process of going tray-less in the middle and upper schools. "The facts sell the initiative" says Allison Mitchell, Chartwells General Manager. On a typical day, we estimate that 470 gallons of water are used to wash trays from the dining halls. There are chemicals, detergents, drying agents, energy and labor that all go into the washing of trays. The benefits of eliminating trays are environmentally impactful.

The initiative was rolled out to students, faculty and staff upon return from the Thanksgiving break. Trays were not eliminated but signs were put into place stating, "the choice is yours...consider not using a tray." Almost immediately, there was a 50% reduction in tray use. The "ultimate plan" would be to become completely tray-less. Encouraging the schools' community to lessen the ecological footprint is rewarding for all.

### **Brookside School: Recycle Your K-Cup Pods Here**

Brookside School continues to practice K-Cup recycling. The next time you are at Brookside, check out the Recycle Your K-Cup Pods.

We are excited to share a few links to the Keurig company statement -that all their pods will be fully recyclable by the end of 2020 and the link to a company-Grounds to Grow On, that you can pay to recycle pods for you. The cost starts at \$70 to recycle 875 pods.

<https://www.keurig.com/recyclable>  
<https://www.groundstogrowon.com/>  
<https://www.groundstogrowon.com/place-your-order>



Sustainability! Practice! Practice! Practice!

# Cranbrook Kingswood Upper School Clothing Swap

We are putting the Spotlight on some of the pictures taken during the Cranbrook Kingswood Upper School Clothing Swap sponsored by the LITE (Leaders in the Environment) Club. On Friday, January 10, 2020, students were encouraged to bring 5-10 items of clothing, accessories or pairs of shoes in clean and good condition and swap as many items as they brought for “new” ones. Snacks and music were provided. All remaining items were donated to The Children’s Center in Detroit, Michigan. Kudos to the LITE Leaders for continuing to take the lead, creating and implementing initiatives that make a sustainable difference in the lives of others. We are looking forward to future updates.

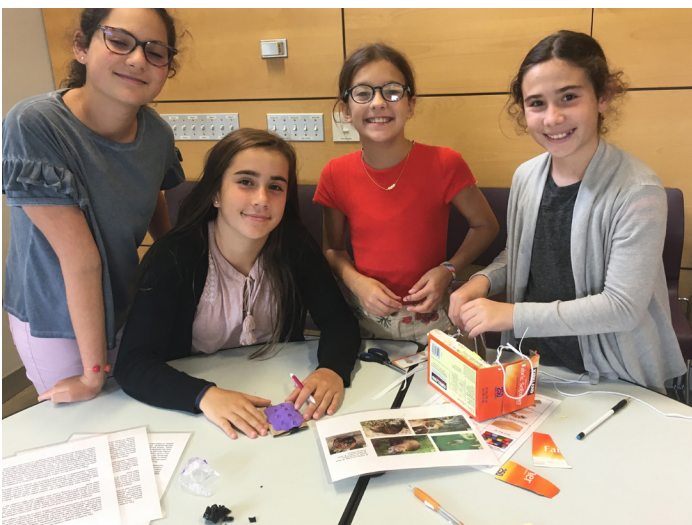




## **Cranbrook Middle School for Girls Theme: Fresh Water and the Great Lakes**

Above: Middle School Girls at Great Lakes Science Center in Cleveland Ohio

Below: Middle School Girls at Cranbrook Institute of Science, designing a way to clean a “watershed,” using natural materials & second pic, designing “inventions” to eliminate invasive species.





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## **Earth Day 2020 is Coming!**

Additional information about Cranbrook Educational Community  
Earth Day events coming soon.

Email us at [sustainability@cranbrook.edu](mailto:sustainability@cranbrook.edu) with activities and events  
you are planning, sponsoring, or attending to celebrate Earth Day.  
We may put the spotlight on you!