



# The Springfield Renaissance School, gr. 6-12

An Expeditionary Learning School

\*Respect \*Courage \*Responsibility \*Friendship \*Cultural Sensitivity \*Perseverance \*Self-Discipline

## News Release

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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## **Students to present initiatives to help Springfield ‘go green’**

(Springfield, MA) The ninth grade class of The Springfield Renaissance School will present their ‘Greenprint 2010’ to Mayor Sarno and other city officials on **Tuesday, March 9<sup>th</sup> from 12:30 to 1:30 in the school’s auditorium**. Students will also present to the Green Committee of City Council **Tuesday evening at 6:00 pm at City Hall**. Over the past few months, the students have conducted a learning expedition in which they investigated energy sources and conservation, performed building audits, and interviewed experts. Their findings and proposals have been compiled in their ‘Greenprint 2010’.

The presentation will include several initiatives the students have proposed that will help Springfield become a more sustainable city and help lower its carbon footprint. “This project not only helps save money but it will also help Springfield be a healthier city. This is a great start to help our city and our environment” says 9<sup>th</sup> grader Mercedes Brown. Leslie Perez agrees with her, stating that the class of 2013 is “looking to make Springfield Public Schools more energy efficient. With this project I believe Springfield will save money because we are focusing on ways to make Springfield green! I believe it’s the right thing to do. The more we can do as a community, the more well-rounded and energy efficient Springfield can become!” In addition, the presentation will also include findings from the student’s audits of four elementary schools and specific energy conservation measures to save energy and cut costs for each of these schools.

During the expedition, which was conducted as part of the ninth grade second trimester Environmental Science curriculum, students worked with Springfield Facilities Engineer, Joseph Forest, on conducting building audits on four local elementary schools. Students also drafted letters on green initiatives the city might take in order to lower its carbon footprint.

“This report allows for a dialogue to be started between current decision makers and those who will be inheriting the city in the years to come,” said Ms. Aurora Kushner, the ninth grade Environmental Science teacher working with the Class of 2013. “It has allowed for kids to take their in-depth learning on energy, greenhouse gases and global climate change and apply it to a local, real-world situation. This report is the culmination of the students synthesizing their own learning and realizing that what they learn in school is really connected to what is going on in our community.”

For more information about the symposium, please contact Ms. Kushner. For information about the Springfield Renaissance School, please contact its principal, Stephen R. Mahoney, Ed. D., by telephone at 413-265-7296 or via e-mail at [mahoneys@sps.springfield.ma.us](mailto:mahoneys@sps.springfield.ma.us)