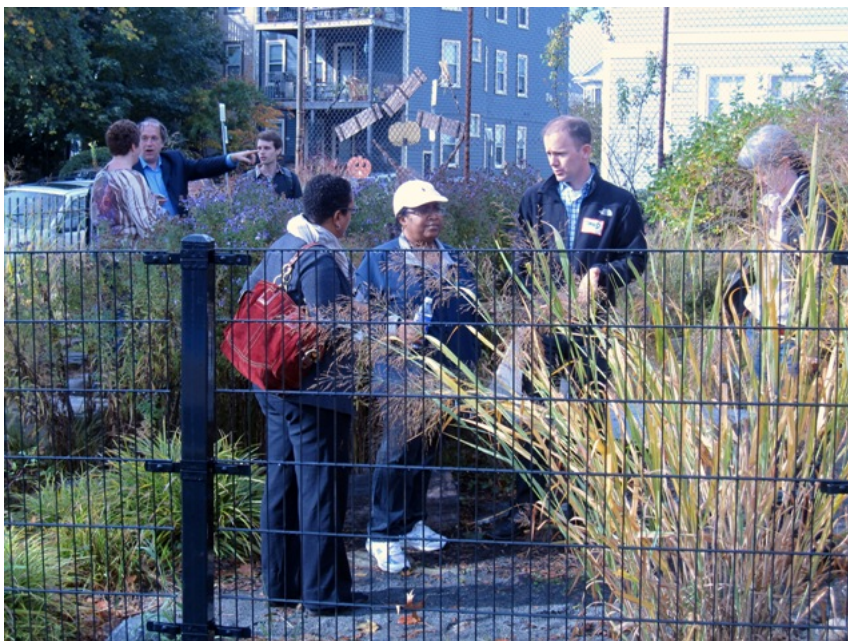




# BOSTON SCHOOLYARD INITIATIVE

Transforming schoolyards into dynamic centers for recreation, learning, and community life.

## Schoolyard Bus Tour Gets the Creativity Flowing!



*Participants on our tour explore the Perry School outdoor classroom*

### In this issue:

[Schoolyard Bus Tour Gets the Creative Juices Flowing](#)  
[Good Idea Showcase](#)  
[New OC Inspires a Poet](#)  
[Boston Cares Brings TLC to BPS](#)  
[New BSI Blog](#)  
[School Gardening 101 Course](#)  
[Share your success stories](#)

---

Like us on Facebook 

**BSI HAS A  
FACEBOOK PAGE!**

Click the button above to "like" us... and be sure to visit our page to post your schoolyard news and photos!

---



Members of the schoolyard planning committees at the Umana and Higginson-Lewis schools joined BSI staff for our annual Schoolyard Bus Tour on October 20. Along with the landscape architects designing their new schoolyards, participants explored past BSI projects to get an idea of the creative possibilities that await them. To see more photos of the tour, check out our [album](#) on Facebook.

## Good Idea Showcase: Collaborative Outdoor Teaching Brings Health and Wellness to the Russell School

The Boston Schoolyard Initiative recently visited Russell Elementary School to speak to physical education instructor Elizabeth Reynolds Lupo and science teacher Holly Rosa about how they've been inspired by the outdoor classroom (and by each other!) in their unique co-teaching classes.

Several times a week the two teachers instruct classes together, creatively melding science concepts with physical education activities. This collaborative teaching opportunity, they say, has allowed them to enhance the learning experience of their students and to come up with new and fresh ideas. For them, a big part of the success of these co-teaching classes is being able to take their students to the outdoor classroom.

On the day of our visit, Reynolds Lupo and Rosa are outside with their kindergarten special education and ESL class. The topic of the class is shapes and the students begin by using their bodies to make squares, triangles, and ovals. The teachers then hand out buckets labeled with different shapes and bring their students into the outdoor classroom to collect and identify objects by their shape, reinforcing the same concept in a different way. The students are excited and engaged, and diligently investigate the outdoor classroom to find objects to place in the buckets. By twisting into shapes and moving around the OC, students get meaningful physical activity while also engaging in academics. [Read more...](#)

## New Outdoor Classroom Inspires a Budding Poet

The finishing touches are being put on the new outdoor classroom at the Henderson Inclusion School, and students are eagerly awaiting the final result. Principal Patricia Lampron passed along this poem written by 5th grader Michael Wuschke:

*Flowers blooming  
Spikey plants look deadly*

**Donate Now**  
Secure donations through  
Network for Good

YOUR DONATION HELPS TURN  
THIS:



INTO THIS:



**PLEASE CONSIDER  
A GIFT TODAY!**

---

**TEACHERS, CHECK OUT  
THE NEW BSI BLOG!**

We've created a [blog](#) to share creative activities and ideas that you can use when teaching your students in the schoolyard or outdoor classroom: Be sure to check the blog often, as we will be updating it regularly with new tips and inspiring stories from Boston teachers. And please contact us if you'd like to contribute- we'd love to hear from you! Email Jack Sheridan [jacksheridan@schoolyards.org](mailto:jacksheridan@schoolyards.org) or Ann Deveney [anndeveney@schoolyards.org](mailto:anndeveney@schoolyards.org)

---

**SCHOOL GARDENING 101  
COURSE**

The National Teacher Institute for Garden-Based Learning has created an interactive online class designed to offer educators the practical knowledge necessary for

*Falling leaves  
Winding path  
Leaves that look like cups for drinking water  
Crunching gravel under foot  
Acorn on stump  
Pop! Pop! Pop! of the little dump truck  
I can't wait for the outdoor classroom to open!*

Thanks for sharing, Michael!

PS- We just love seeing student work inspired by our schoolyards. Teachers, feel free to share with us by emailing [kristinmetz@schoolyards.org](mailto:kristinmetz@schoolyards.org)

## Boston Cares brings TLC to BPS



Boston Cares, the largest volunteer center in New England, recently engaged 500 volunteers at the second annual Tech Gives Back Day earlier this fall. More than 50 volunteers transformed the outdoor space at the Hennigan School in Jamaica Plain, painting fresh colors on the faded track, blacktop games, railings, and inspirational murals; and clearing out the overgrown jungle in the Early Learning Center garden. The Hennigan schoolyard was renovated by BSI in 1998, and we want to give a heartfelt "thank you" to the many volunteers who keep our early projects looking good! [Boston Cares](#) and its partner companies have served at more than a dozen Boston Public Schools this year, bringing more than 1,000 volunteers and donated supplies to beautify and enhance learning environments.

building and sustaining a school gardening program. The next round of classes begins in January- to learn more or to register visit [their website](#).

---

### SHARE YOUR SUCCESS STORIES

Is your school using your schoolyard or outdoor classroom in interesting ways? Is outdoor play or learning part of your school's recipe for success? If so we want to hear about it! To be part of our Good Idea Showcase, send your schoolyard success story to Maureen White [maureenwhite@schoolyards.org](mailto:maureenwhite@schoolyards.org)



 [Send to a Colleague](#)

 [Join Our Mailing List](#)

Boston Schoolyard Initiative  
One Center Plaza  
Suite 350  
Boston, Massachusetts 02108  
[www.schoolyards.org](http://www.schoolyards.org)

[Forward this email](#)



Try it FREE today.

This email was sent to maureenwhite@schoolyards.org by [maureenwhite@schoolyards.org](mailto:maureenwhite@schoolyards.org) | [Update Profile/Email Address](#) | Instant removal with [SafeUnsubscribe™](#) | [Privacy Policy](#).

Boston Schoolyard Initiative | One Center Plaza | Suite 350 | Boston | MA | 02108