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Upcoming Features:

- More student work
- OUSD Goes Solar!
- Winter & Spring Break Shutdown results
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Tip of the Month

Now that the days are steadily getting longer, aim to use more natural daylighting in rooms by opening the blinds! Many rooms are over lit, and natural light is better for your eyes. Who doesn't want to be healthier and reduce energy at the same time? Sun's up, blinds up!

Greetings!

We are more than half way through the school year and emPower is moving forward on future energy saving projects. The emPower team continues to partner with schools to reduce energy use through outreach and behavior change, showing that "Less is More"! The emPower team is also working with our Facilities Department staff to optimize control of heating /HVAC systems. In this issue you will read about ACE assemblies, schools receiving solar panels, and fun activities students are working on at their enrolled sites. Also in this issue is a short interview with one of our Facilities staff heroes, Edgar Calero! Check out the awesome work that Edgar is doing to save energy during school breaks, and learn a fun fact.

Energy Challenge Updates

The OUSD emPower Energy Challenge standings as of *January 1st* is Castlemont High in first, reducing 14% electricity; Oakland Tech in second with 4% electricity reduction; and Oakland High in third place with 3% electricity reduction. It is only the end of the second quarter of the Challenge, so keep on saving!

Stay tuned for next month's newsletter!



Castlemont emPower student interns !

Alliance for Climate Education (ACE) Assemblies

Oakland High School and Oakland Technical High School were both lucky enough to see the amazing Alliance for Climate Education assembly hosted by the fabulous Wen Lee. Alliance for Climate Education supports the education of youth on climate science in an engaging and interactive way. This fun and well-rehearsed presentation broke down a complicated topic and motivated students by showing that their actions make a difference. Oakland Tech had over 1400 students attend! As President, Manaiya Scott led the Green Club Committee in presenting at end of the assembly, which included the Energy Committee members, speaking about the emPower Energy Challenge and pledging to "Do One Thing" to save energy, money, and the environment!



Green Club students presenting at ACE Assembly with emPower Site Champion, Mr. Senn

What's happening on site?

Castlemont High

Early this year the Castlemont emPower Student Interns (girl power!), learned about their new solar energy system, from a SunPower engineer. Later, they checked out the inverters, meters, and rooftop panels first-hand. What a view! Two Castlemont emPower student interns, Ronye and Sandra, presented a poster on the emPower Energy Challenge Program made by the group, at SUDA's FabLab opening, January 21st.



emPower Student Interns at Opening of Fablab; presenting emPower group projects during the Energy Challenge

Oakland High

At Oakland High students created Energy Tickets. Energy Tickets are similar to the function of parking tickets, without the fine. When a student comes across a room with the lights on, no one inside, and no occupancy sensor light switch, the student will hang a ticket on the door handle, notifying the teacher to turn off lights when possible. To conserve paper, the notified teacher will return the door hanger to Mr. Jordan for the interns to reuse. The primary goal of these tickets is not to criticize teachers and their energy use habits, but to spread awareness and suggest opportunities for behavior change. Another major project student interns have worked on is decorating the emPower bulletin board and using it as a channel of communication to reach the student body. The bulletin board has several graphic components, such as visualizing Oakland High's energy data, energy saving tips, updates on the interns' projects,

and much more. Oakland High is well on its way to reducing its energy usage thanks to the Oakland High emPower student interns!

Oakland Tech



ACE Assembly at Oakland Tech

Oakland Tech held an ACE assemblies with 1400 students attending. Wen Lee, the presenter, successfully engaged students and staff in an educational presentation about climate change and what students can do to create the change they want to see. Even staff, who were at first skeptical about attending, enjoyed the assembly and thought it was one of the best assemblies held at Tech!

Q&A with Edgar Calero, OUSD's Lead Steamfitter/HVAC Technician

Edgar Calero, lead steamfitter and HVAC technician at OUSD, is responsible for maintaining and repairing the boiler and refrigeration systems at every school in the district. Over winter break Edgar shutdown 7 sites on Alerton, an Energy Management System (EMS). Alerton is used by Buildings & Grounds to control heating and cooling (HVAC) systems remotely. Turning off HVAC systems is a simple yet effective way for schools to save both energy (natural gas) and money, and reduce their greenhouse gas emissions. It is estimated that Oakland Tech saved \$790 and Oakland High saved \$320 by shutting off their HVAC systems over winter break. Way to go Edgar!

Q1. Tell us a brief background. How did you get involved with HVAC systems and steamfitting?

A. I'm from Colombia, and I've been involved with steamfitting since I was 16 years old. I've been doing steamfitting almost my whole life, and I continued it when I moved to the US in my early 20s. My first job was as a steamfitting assistant when I was 16 and attending technical school in Colombia.

Q2. What actions have you seen contribute to energy conservation behaviors or attitudes? Has any of this affected your personal life?

A. It's easier to see energy waste in others than yourself, so when you see other people wasting, it makes you think "Am I doing that too?" It really makes you more energy conscious of your own actions. I have a habit of looking at thermostats when I enter my friends' houses to check their settings.

Q3. What is a fun fact about you? E.g. favorite tv show, hobbies, etc.

A. I love listening and dancing to old-school salsa music. I also enjoy horseback riding at a ranch that is maybe the only ranch that takes disabled children on horseback rides on scenic trails, not just around the pen.