



MD Association for Environmental and Outdoor Education



## Indian Creek School Receives MAOEE Green School Award

Over the last several years, Indian Creek School sixth grade science teacher Ms. Lara McCormick has shepherded efforts to earn for the Evergreen Campus the designation of a Green School by the [Maryland Association for Outdoor and Environmental Education](http://www.maeoe.org). The Maryland Green School Awards Program is a holistic, integrated approach to authentic learning that incorporates local environmental issue investigation and professional development with environmental best management practices and community stewardship.

MAEOE's Green School Awards Program celebrates Maryland's model environmental education efforts which combine classroom studies with the use of best management practices at schools and involve the community. These are noncompetitive awards to recognize and celebrate the achievement of schools meeting strict environmental education criteria. In honor of Earth Day and the role that the Maryland Green School Program has played in the burgeoning national green schools movement, PBS premiered a special Earth Day PBS World documentary "Growing Greener Schools."

In order to qualify for the Green School award, Indian Creek had to meet the criteria in three areas: curriculum and instruction, Operation and Design of Building and Grounds, and School and Community Partnership. On Earth Day, Ms. McCormick received notification of the award from the program coordinator Ryan Pleune:

On this early, foggy and rainy morning I sit here staring at your wonderful portfolios that represent "souls" work of high aspirations. I never knew there were so many people in one state that were engaged in such amazing things with their students, teachers and community to form a life changing culture of education at their school or learning center. Thank you for inspiring me to rise with you. I could not wait any longer than the 40th Anniversary of Earth Day to let you know that Indian Creek Lower/Middle School has been approved by a reviewing committee of over 36 environmental education leaders in the region to be given a 2010 Maryland Green School/Center Award.

... The work you have done will make our world a better place because you have changed the culture of learning in and beyond your neighborhood and now you serve as an example for others to follow your high aspirations.

Indian Creek will receive its award during the Maryland Green Schools Youth Summit on June 4th at Sandy Point State Park. More formal recognition will include a phone call, a letter to your principal, and an official invitation to the Maryland Green Schools Ceremony.

This news came amidst the traditional recognition of Earth Day with an Earth Day carnival celebration hosted by sixth and eighth grade students for Lower School students on the Evergreen Campus. At the same time Anne Arundel County was acquiring a new watershed buffer as seventh and ninth grade students planted a grove of Atlantic white cedars on the Upper School Campus.

[ICS Earth Celebrations](#)

