

News Release

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The Children's House gets "Michigan Green School" recognition

TRAVERSE CITY, MI — With an official certificate signed by Governor Jennifer Granholm, The Children House has become the Traverse City area's only "green school."

"Teaching our students about the importance of living with less impact on the planet and showing them that through action they can make a real and positive impact are two core principles at our school," says Michele Shane, Head of School at The Children's House.

In May 2006 after determining that the energy and optimism of Michigan school students might help the state meet its environmental goals, Governor Granholm signed the "Michigan Green School Act." In part, this act grants "Michigan Green School" designation to any public or private school in the state that meets certain criteria. Applicants must meet standards in energy-saving programs, ecology/wildlife studies, and environmental activities—everything from initiating recycling programs for disposable batteries and printer cartridges to meeting goals for less energy consumption.

According to Shane, The Children's House does all these things and much more.

"When I looked at the list of qualifying criteria," says Shane, "I was really proud to see that The Children's House already met the majority of them. Just to name a few, there's our greenhouse and garden program and our school-wide recycling effort that's already cut our weekly garbage output in half. Throughout the year we have guest speakers coming to talk to the students about ecology, solar energy, and wildlife rehabilitation. We also purchased a weather station this year to monitor wind generation on campus with the goal of one day utilizing wind power at our school. The children are the ones who do all of the work."

Michigan "green school" recognition is designed to reward creativity and leadership shown in students and school administrators in the area of recycling, environmental education, and resource conservation—and no school in the Traverse City area does it better than The Children's House.

"Receiving this certification is a great tribute to our staff and students and our campus-wide commitment to the 'green and global' practices."

For more information and/or interviews please contact Missy Russell, Advancement Director at The Children House, by phone 231.929.9325 or via email at missy@traversechildrenhouse.org.

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