

## Chippewa Falls Area Unified School District Press Release



Inspire Support Learn

4/11/24

For Immediate Release:

### **Electricity Cardinals Win the spring Renew Our Schools Competition**

The “Electricity Cardinals” win the 2024 spring Renew Our School statewide energy conservation competition!

This was the youngest team in competition history to win the overall competition. Three 2nd grade classrooms of Mrs. Kunsman, Mrs. Kupczak and Mrs. Downey collaborated with the High School’s Environmental Club to form the Electricity Cardinals team.

The competition is a joint project between Resource Central, the UW-Stevens Point KEEP program, and Focus on Energy. The goal was for students to learn about energy consumption and energy conservation at Hillcrest Elementary School through a variety of tasks and challenges over a six week period.

The students completed an energy audit of the school to determine how much energy was used by lighting, heating and appliances. The Electricity Cardinals acquired the tools necessary for the energy audit with donations from KEEP and by previous fundraising efforts of the Environmental Club.

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The team used data to establish energy conservation goals and then worked on communicating with students and staff about ways to conserve energy. The high school students' role was to facilitate discussions, create lesson plans and utilize KEEP activities to teach the 2nd grade classes on how to monitor energy use and reduce energy consumption. As part of the competition the school received an eGauge device to track electricity use in 'real-time' at the Elementary School.

During the six-week competition, the Electricity Cardinals completed a variety of energy conservation and education challenges and actions that earned points for the group. Ellie Crosby, Chloe Johnson and Zoey Eckwright wrote a KEEP grant for \$700 to buy advanced power strips that conserve energy from 'vampire' electronics. They anticipate saving over \$1000/yr in electricity costs by using these power strips with the classroom Smartboards.

Overall, this student-led team effort earned Hillcrest Elementary School \$2,000 to use towards future energy conservation projects.



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