



**GREEN SCHOOLS  
NATIONAL NETWORK**

## **Journey into the Deep: Whole School Sustainability in Action** **April 17 – 18, 2024 at Prairie Crossing Charter School**

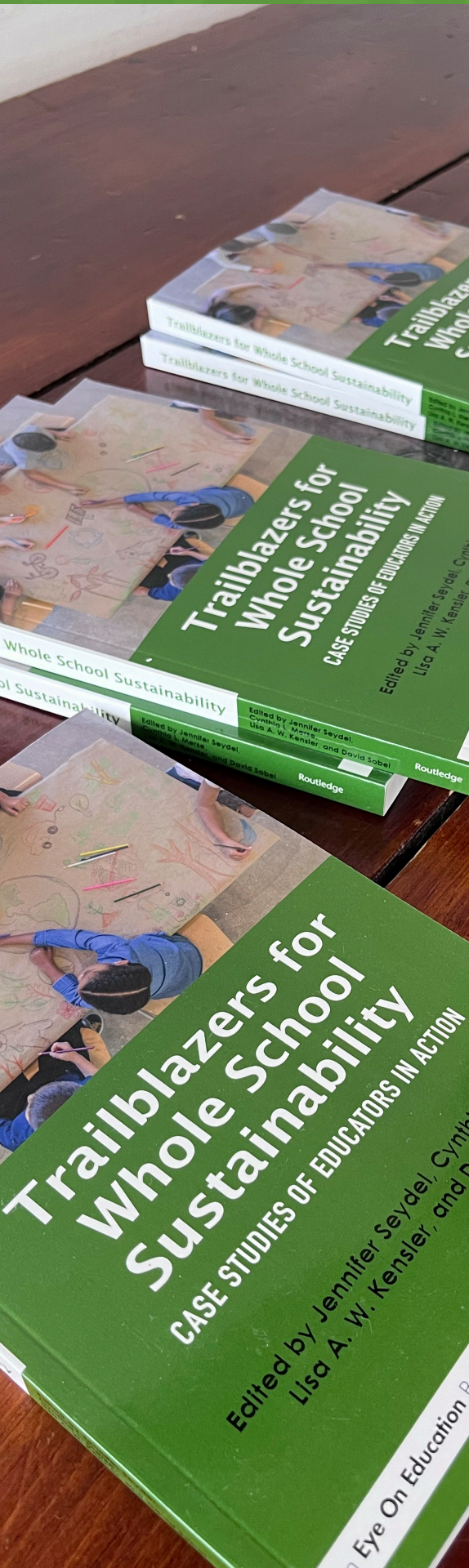
Join Green Schools National Network and Best of Green Schools award recipient and Green Ribbon School Prairie Crossing Charter School for a 1.5-day exploration of Whole School Sustainability in Action on April 17-18, 2024. Be inspired by teachers and school leaders who have been honing their craft for 25 years to refine best practices related to shared leadership; education for sustainability; a culture and climate program they call Natural Leaders; and sustainable facilities and operations that provide a learning environment that is healthy for students, staff, and the planet!

Through direct experiences with teachers, students, and leaders you will walk away with a strong understanding of:

- ◊ The elements of a healthy, equitable, and sustainable school.
- ◊ How a shared vision is the foundation of creating the culture necessary to shape a sustainable and just future for all students and their families.
- ◊ The interplay of leadership, facilities and operations, curriculum and instruction, and climate and culture work together to shape a healthy, equitable, and sustainable school district.
- ◊ How to use content standards shape skills-rich education for sustainability that is interdisciplinary, authentic and leverages phenomenon, place, projects and problem based learning to help students find purpose in learning.
- ◊ Key measures and indicators to assess the efficacy of your initiatives.
- ◊ Strategies that can be helpful to engage all sectors of our community: school board; faculty, families; and community partners.

Below is an overview of the experiences that will inform your learning:





## Wednesday, April 17, 2024

**8:00a** Coffee and Chatter

**8:30a** Opening Circle and Welcome

**9:30a** **Out and About: An Exploration of Curriculum and Instruction.** Student and teacher ambassadors will introduce key curriculum elements at each grade level. This tour will include an exploration of classrooms, outdoor learning spaces; and displays of student work.

**11:00a** Break

**11:15a** **Expert Panel: Curriculum that Matters** - In this session, participants will hear from teachers about their efforts to integrate environmental literacy and education for a sustainable future across the curriculum. Teachers will link their presentation to the Out and About tour they shared earlier. Participants will also get a chance to examine key curriculum documents that are used to ensure developmentally appropriate learning experiences at each grade level.

PCCS is the first school in the country to have created student friendly learning targets for each of the EfS Content Standards from the EfS Benchmarks for Individual and Social Learning (Cloud, ed. 2017). You will also learn how they use a curriculum mapping tool to document their curriculum.

**12:15p** Farm Style Lunch

**1:15p** **Out and About: An Exploration of Learning Environments that Support Natural Leaders** - Student and staff ambassadors will introduce how school facilities and student support services support the development of Natural Leaders.

**2:24p** Break

**3:00p** **Expert Panel: Developing Natural Leaders** - PCCS believes that students and their families are the solutionaries and stewards of a sustainable and just future. In this session, participants will hear from faculty, staff, and students about the social and emotional learning program at PCCS. This unique Natural Leaders Program has been designed to support the needs of all students and to encourage the development of key character traits defined by their Natural Leaders CARES program. Key documents and program structures will be shared that have the potential to be replicated in your school both in the classroom and by student support personnel.

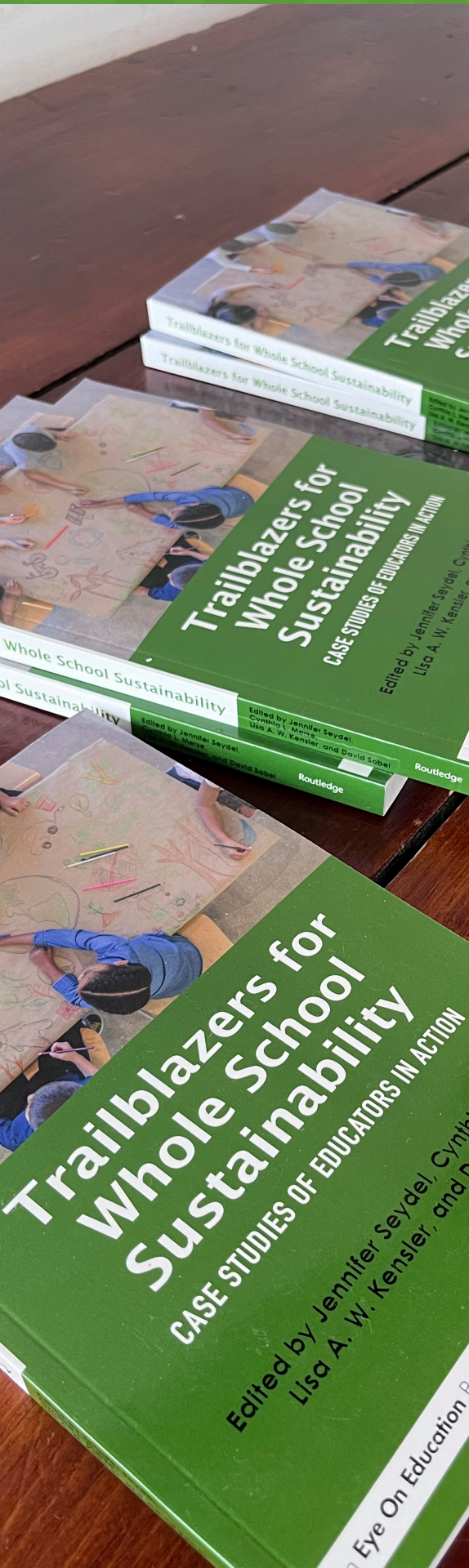
**4:00p** Closing Circle and Reflections

**5:00p** Break

**6:00p** Dinner (location TBD)







## Thursday, April 18, 2024

**8:00a** Coffee and Chatter

**8:30a** Opening Circle and Welcome

**9:30a** **Community Partnerships that Support the development of Natural Leaders at PCC** - During this session, participants will have two opportunities to learn from critical PCCS partners and the role of community partnerships in achieving their goals. The first opportunity will be an exploration of one field site used by the school to provide students with a meaningful organic farm to market learning experience.

The second experience will explore how strategic partnerships help PCCS connect their students to their community and ecosystems. You will learn how PCCS prioritizes, selects and structures community partnerships. You will also hear from key partners to learn how they assist PCCS achieve their goals while they stay mission focused.

**11:00a** Closing and Reflections

**12:00p** Departure



### Lodging:



#### Comfort Suites Grayslake

1775 East Belvidere Road,  
Grayslake, IL, 60030

