

# CSHS GOES GREEN

## Schoolwide initiative promotes energy conservation

Anna Solcher  
Entertainment Editor

According to the Center of Sustainability and Commerce at Duke University, the average American produces 4.3 pounds of waste per day, 1.6 pounds more than produced in 1960. To reduce the amount of waste each person produces, student leaders and faculty are promoting recycling programs at school to reduce the negative global impacts the school has on our world.

Students have created a recycling program for recycling paper, aluminum and plastic. Teaming with Brazos Valley Recycling, members of Student Council work after school to pick up the school's recycling.

"Recycling is important," said senior Taylor Holland, Energy and Environment committee chair in Student Council and founder of this year's recycling program. "Even though we're making a small step here, we're helping the world in the long run."

CSHS is a new building that has been built to maintain maximum efficiency and conserve resources already on the land. For example, most students do not know that the doors and paneling of the auditorium were made from trees that were cut during the construction of the building. By reusing resources, the school can reduce the amount of cost and effort that would have been required for buying more wood. The landscaping was chosen to not require as much water while staying healthy in harsh temperatures.

Furthermore, Jon Hall, building manager of CSHS, planned out many electrical aspects

of the building to conserve energy. The number of windows is a beneficial way to utilize natural light and to decrease electrical lighting in the day. The building has a high-efficiency air condition system that was more expensive upfront but saves energy and money overall as well as automatic, high efficiency lights with motion sensors that turn off when no one is in the room.

"We are very fortunate to have a cutting

**"EVEN THOUGH WE'RE  
MAKING A SMALL STEP  
HERE, WE'RE HELPING THE  
WORLD IN THE LONG RUN."**

**- TAYLOR HOLLAND**

*SENIOR*

edge facility," principal Mike Martindale said. "Not many schools in our district are as automated as ours is. We are programmed for efficiency."

Student leaders, teamed with LEO Club, Student Council, and NHS help everyone recycle by providing places to put recyclable items in the classroom and cafeteria. Bins can be seen in almost every classroom used for recycling white

paper and painted trashcans are placed in the cafeteria.

"Just seeing a nice recycling bin next to a trashcan, we are hoping students will choose to recycle," Holland said.

Brazos Valley Recycling picks up paper recycling once a month for free, and aluminum cans are taken to a scrap metal place in Bryan and student council receives money, about \$30 per bag. Student Council also hopes to start recycling cardboard in the future for teachers who need a place to put their extra cardboard.

"Recycling is good for the environment, and the program helps students get involved and makes them aware, while also helping out the teachers in the school get rid of their papers and bottles," Energy and Environment committee member junior Maddie Byrd said.

This attitude of caring for the environment and learning to conserve resources can be seen in the encouragement of the staff and faculty.

"I have an expectation of responsibility for the faculty and staff, along with taking care of turning off their lights," Martindale said. "I think that fits in with collectively doing the right thing."

Although the school has programs to encourage recycling and energy conservation, according to student leaders, more can be done to promote the importance of recycling.

"Saving bottles to recycle and making sure teachers are aware and encourage students to recycle white paper or bottles can further decrease the negative impact we have," Holland said. "Every small bit counts." •

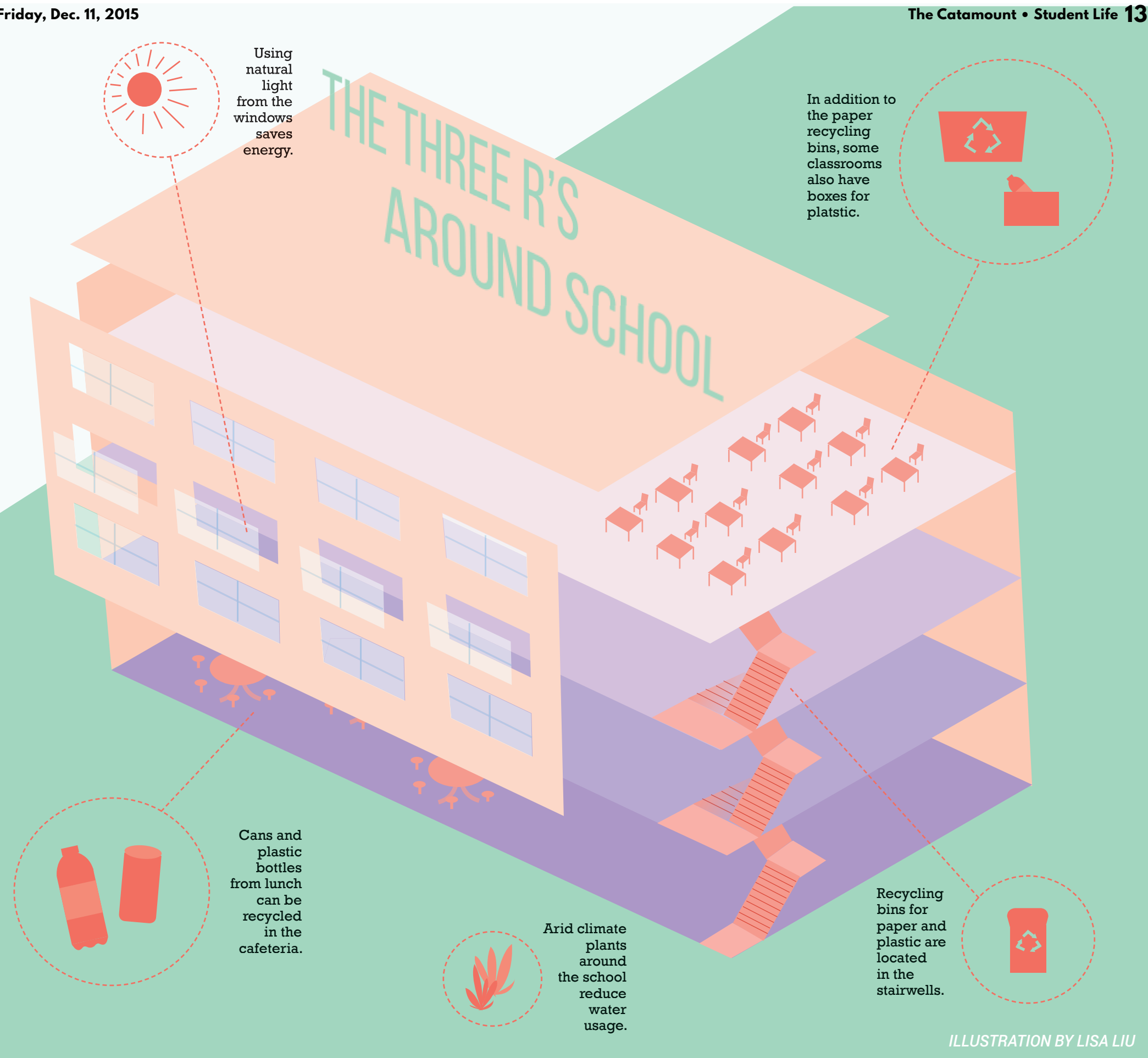


ILLUSTRATION BY LISA LIU