



**King County**

Department of Natural Resources and Parks

**Solid Waste Division**

June 2005

# Class Act

School Recycling Program Newsletter

## 2005 Earth Heroes at School Honored

On May 5, the teachers, students, school staff, and volunteers selected as Earth Heroes at School for 2005 gathered at Maplewood Greens in Renton for an awards ceremony. It was an opportunity for these Earth Heroes to be recognized for their important contributions to the environment.



*Dusty Duke of Issaquah Valley Elementary receives his Earth Hero Award from Executive Ron Sims.*

All of the recipients made thoughtful and eloquent comments as they were called in turn to the podium. Dusty Duke, custodian at Issaquah Valley Elementary, who was honored for his work to make cleaning, waste collection and recycling more efficient and environmentally safe, shared some inspiring words about the source of his commitment to his work – the children at his school. One day a group of them showed him the dictionary definition of custodian: one

that guards and protects or maintains. Knowing that the children put their trust in him to guard and protect them and the school made Dusty ever more committed to a clean and safe physical and natural environment.

Fifth-graders, Ingrid Clark and Catherine Mooney-Meyer each gave an articulate description of the stream stewardship and community service projects their classes have done under their teachers Justine Hurley and Marte Peet. Also showing poise at the podium were Kayla Young and Grace Wan, who accepted the Earth Hero award on behalf of their teacher Tasha Kiemel of Discovery Elementary. The Peter Kirk Roots and Shoots Club which initiated a comprehensive lunchroom recycling program at their school was well-represented by both parents and students.

Earth Heroes received certificates of recognition signed and presented by Executive Ron Sims and canvas tote bags with the Reduce, Reuse and Recycle message filled with donated items. The Seattle Audubon Society donated copies of the book *Orcas, Eagles and Kings* written by Steve Yates and featuring the photography of the Northwest's finest nature photographers. Other donated items included game tickets from the Seattle Mariners, and discount coupons for the purchase of red worms for composting from Seattle Tilth. Ballard Floral in Seattle donated potted flowers for the event centerpieces which Earth Heroes were invited to take home to plant in their gardens.



*Ingrid Clark and Catherine Mooney-Meyer with Executive Ron Sims. The girls accepted the awards on behalf of their teachers Justine Hurley and Marte Peet of Lockwood Elementary.*

Earth Heroes at School are selected every spring following a nomination period from January through early March. Photographs of the 2005 Earth Heroes can be viewed on the King County website at <http://www.metrokc.gov/exec/news/2005/05EarthHeroImages/photogallery.htm>.

The event was taped by King County TV and aired on Cable 22 throughout May. VHS or DVD copies may be purchased for \$21 from **King County Television, 516 Third Avenue, Room 1200, Seattle, WA 98104, Tel: 206-296-0300, E-mail: [kctv@metrokc.gov](mailto:kctv@metrokc.gov)**

**Alternate formats available:  
Voice 206-296-6542 or  
TTY Relay: 711**

## Stewardship Projects

### Junior High Teachers Integrate HHW into Study of Cedar River

Barb Shelton and Kim McHenry, ninth grade teachers at Tahoma Junior High, each received a mini-grant from King County to study the impacts of household hazardous products on water quality in the Cedar River. To make the river unit more relevant to students, these teachers are re-designing their curriculum to look at the impacts of increasing development on water quality, habitat, salmon, and the food chain of the river. Students will end the unit with a presentation of a project that demonstrates some aspect about water quality and the river.

### Kellogg Middle School Students Test Products in Garden

Anne-Marie Culver's eighth grade students at Kellogg Middle School (Shoreline) have been improving the school garden as well as conducting experiments comparing the effects of safer alternatives with hazardous products on plant growth, the efficacy and claims of these products, and the use or overuse of water as part of their mini-grant project. Students are presenting their results at the Shoreline District Science Fair.

### Tolt Middle School Teacher Shares Her Knowledge with Others

Cathy Buck, seventh grade science teacher at Tolt Middle School, received a mini-grant to create a native plant garden with her students. Each student researched and became an expert on one native plant. Students planted the garden, made interpretive signs, and learned about how native plants provide shade, diversity, and habitat for salmon in the Tolt River. They also discussed how native plants reduce the need for fertilizers and pesticides that affect water quality. Cathy Buck will teach other teachers how to create a native plant garden at a workshop through the Heritage Institute on June 4.



*Kellogg Middle School students working in the garden.*

### Kentlake High School Students Write Letters

Stephanie Wolk's Honors Junior Advanced Composition and Senior Creative Writing students used what they learned about household hazardous products to write persuasive letters to companies asking about ingredients, animal testing, impacts on health, or other concerns they had. A number of students have received responses, and, in some cases, coupons or free samples of products.

### Illahee Middle School Students Promote Recycling

Under the guidance of teacher Maggie Palm, these 58 middle school students researched and then initiated a new recycling program with the help of the County's Green School Program. To boost recycling, they conducted skits, prepared posters and announcements, and staffed an educational booth at lunch. Funded with a Green Team Mini-Grant, they are now presenting this information at three elementary schools to fifth graders that will enter Illahee Middle School in September.

### Arbor School Starts Composting Program

The Arbor School, a Montessori School for preschool through eighth grade in Sammamish, received a Green Team grant to construct a compost system and worm bin for their School Yard Habitat. All 180 students will be involved in learning about and using the compost system as part of a schoolwide curriculum.

### Apollo Elementary Students Take On Noxious Weeds

Fifth-grade teachers Carrie Alexander, Corinne Bauer, Lauren Campbell, and Ruth Roy have been teaching their students about noxious weeds and their impact on local native plants. Students also have been studying mason bees and environmental stewardship in preparation for their field trip to Pickering Barn in Issaquah to remove noxious weeds and install interpretive signs and mason bee houses. Students have learned about the role insects such as bees play in habitat and how to remove weeds without pesticides that kill bees. Teachers have received support from both the King County Solid Waste Division and the City of Issaquah.

## These Green Teams Are Earth Smart!

The King County Solid Waste Division has recognized the following Green Teams for their efforts to reduce waste, help habitat in King County and make Earth Smart choices.

**Black Diamond Elementary- Sara Davis's** first/second grade Green Team worked with the custodian to encourage the school to recycle milk cartons, bottles, and cans. Students are now more aware of their environment and are picking up litter, recycling at home, and learning how their actions can make a difference. **Linda Reiter's** fifth grade class picks up all the recycling for the building. They also convinced the staff to switch to serving breakfast on reusable trays instead of paper bags.

**Discovery Elementary - Tasha Kiemel's** fourth grade Green Team designed scrap paper boxes for classrooms throughout the school. Students also conducted a schoolwide



Sunset Elementary Green Team challenged their classmates to reduce lunch waste.

recycling campaign and set up a worm bin for composting.

**Emerald Park Elementary- Natalie Johnson and Emily Chapman's** fourth grade students volunteered to pick up litter around the play areas of the school during their recess periods. Students are now more aware of litter.

**Hazelwood Elementary- Kay Moilenan's** fifth graders started a worm bin to compost snack and lunch waste and purchased native plants

to create a school yard habitat in their new school. In addition to learning about decomposition and the inhabitants of their ecosystem, students are more aware of how to make less garbage.

**Holy Trinity Lutheran - Carol Cole's** third and fourth graders bring a "Green Lunch" every Thursday and pick up litter and recycle every day. Students are more aware of how to reduce garbage and the campus looks better.

**Maple Valley Christian - Debbie Brumfield's** fourth grade Green Team started a worm bin for their lunch time waste. Students also pick up litter on their way in from recess.

**Medina Girl Scout Troop-** Led by **Sheryl Pereira**, these Girl Scouts educated their classmates and challenged them to reduce lunch waste. The trash was reduced from 13 bags per day to under three bags.

**Parkwood Elementary- Sheryl Lundahl's** third grade Green Team helped other students at the Shoreline School District's Renewable Energy Fair. Students demonstrated solar energy models made out of recycled and reused materials.

**Peter Kirk Elementary- The Roots and Shoots Club** researched and implemented a new lunchroom recycling program.

**Rock Creek Elementary- Kay Hoffman's** fourth grade students have been learning about safer alternatives to household hazardous products. In addition to using environmentally friendly products in the classroom, students wrote letters to their parents teaching them what they learned.

## The Evergreen School Receives Green Globe Award for "Leader in Sustainable Schools"

The Evergreen School, a private pre-K through 8th grade school in Shoreline, received the *Leader in Sustainable Schools Award* at King County's Green Globe Award Ceremony on April 22, Earth Day. The Green Globe Award is King County's highest honor for businesses, organizations and individuals that have gone the extra mile in environmental stewardship and have participated in one or more Department of Natural Resources and Parks programs. Award winners are considered the "best of the best" and awards are bestowed only every two years.

The Evergreen School was recognized for its outstanding efforts to expand conservation practices and raise awareness among students and staff about the importance of stewardship practices. As a participant in the **King County Green Schools Program**, the Evergreen School made measurable strides in waste reduction and recycling, water conservation, energy conservation, and environmental education.

For more information about the specific achievements of the Evergreen School and about the Green Schools Program, contact Dale Alekel at (206) 296-8457 or [dale.alekel@metrokc.gov](mailto:dale.alekel@metrokc.gov) or visit [www.metrokc.gov/dnr/swd/greenschools](http://www.metrokc.gov/dnr/swd/greenschools).



Executive Ron Sims and Councilmember Carolyn Edmonds with Janet Chamley and Margaret Wagner from The Evergreen School at the Green Globe Awards.

## Hazards on the Homefront: Free workshop for 4<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> Grade Teachers

Wednesday, August 17, 2005,  
8:00am-4:00 pm

Optional Half-Day Field Trip to the  
South Wastewater Treatment Plant,  
Thursday August 18, 2005

Searching for real-life lessons that meet Grade Level Expectations in a fun, hands-on, and engaging manner? King County Solid Waste Division invites you to attend a FREE workshop on personal and environmental health effects of hazardous household products. Teach your students to practice important skills such as critical thinking, reading for understanding, persuasive writing, inquiry, and communication. These real-life environmental topics relate to a wide range of classes, including science, health, fitness, and social studies.

### You will learn:

- How to recognize hazardous household products
- What makes a product hazardous
- Ways in which we are exposed to hazardous products
- Fun, hands-on experiments and activities about safer alternatives
- Experiments on how these products affect water quality
- How to dispose of products safely
- How to integrate this information into your existing curriculum
- Project ideas that relate to water topics, plants, soils, and the scientific method

### You will receive:

- Stipend upon completion of workshop objectives
- Free *Hazards on the Homefront* Teacher Lesson Guide with overheads
- Green Cleaning Kit filled with safer products for you to try
- Information about free follow-up classroom presentations and mini-grants
- Clock hours or credit for a fee

To register, please call Kristine Cramer at 206-583-0655 or email workshops@triangleassociates.com. For more information, visit <http://www.metrokc.gov/dnrp/swd/education/hazwaste.asp>.

## Upcoming Fall Programs

For more information about these and other programs, visit <http://www.metrokc.gov/dnrp/swd/education/index.asp>.

### Elementary

If your school missed out on the new **Earth Smart Adventures** assembly program, contact [workshops@triangleassociates.com](mailto:workshops@triangleassociates.com) or 206.583.0655 to sign up now. The program will be offered September-December 2005.

### Secondary

**Biodiversity in Our World and Earth Impact: Overconsumption or Sustainability** will again be available for 6-12 grade classes. Contact [workshops@triangleassociates.com](mailto:workshops@triangleassociates.com) or 206.583.0655 to sign up now.

**Waste Busters:** Sign up for one of eight Waste Busters workshops for grades 6-12. **Biospheres, Consumption Junction, Sorting It Out** are popular classroom presentations. Contact 206.443.2851 or [waste\\_busters@pacsci.org](mailto:waste_busters@pacsci.org).



### King County

Department of  
Natural Resources and Parks  
**Solid Waste Division**  
King Street Center, Suite 701  
201 S. Jackson St.  
Seattle, WA 98104-3855

PRSR STD  
U.S. POSTAGE  
PAID  
SEATTLE, WA  
PERMIT #14146

— PASS IT ON —  
When you are done  
with this issue,  
pass it on to  
someone else who  
may be interested.