

## Conservation News & Announcements

May 28, 2008



### SPS Students Show Their Leadership at IslandWood Summit

On May 28<sup>th</sup> students and teachers from around the Puget Sound took part in IslandWood's *Make a Difference Summit*. This was a day for school groups to come together and share how they have made positive impacts in their school, community and environment. Students demonstrated their leadership in environmental stewardship and academics by preparing and delivering presentations on their projects.



Make a Difference Summit poster at IslandWood. Photo courtesy of Soren Burns.

The agenda was limited to 10 schools, with 4 Seattle schools represented. Montlake Elementary presented their three-pronged approach to waste reduction, focusing on worm bins, on-site composting, and haul-off composting. Montlake students use plant debris from their greenhouse and garden to produce beneficial compost in worm bins and on-site compost containers. Students also operate the haul-off composting program that diverts a large amount of lunchroom waste from landfills. Bryant Elementary demonstrated their knowledge of the history of Ravenna Creek and reported on their current research. Students are studying the creek's health through collecting data on the physical properties and macro invertebrate populations. Cooper Elementary is entwining environmental aspects through many of their activities and lessons in their EARTH Project. This project started in the classroom through planning native species gardens. Students and teachers are now taking the lessons into nature by planting the gardens where, once established, students will learn about a different species at each grade level. The EARTH project brings the activities full circle back into the classroom by incorporating nature and recycled items into art projects.

Some projects outside of Seattle Public Schools included a plastic bag recycling campaign, a shoe drive, and a scientific approach to lunchroom composting.

Students demonstrated that they are not the future, they are the present; leading their schools and communities to a more sustainable and healthy planet.

For more information about IslandWood, please visit [www.islandwood.org](http://www.islandwood.org).