



News Release

From Seattle Public Schools

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Chief Sealth High School to host Nobel Peace Prize Laureate Wangari Maathai for Ceremonial Tree Planting

On Wednesday, September 19, Chief Sealth High School will host Nobel Peace Prize Laureate, Professor Wangari Maathai, for a ceremonial tree planting as part of Project Earth Care, an environmental project created by Chief Sealth High School students. To launch the event, Chief Sealth High School will host the Seattle Earth Summit II in its Little Theater at the campus. World famous nature photographer Art Wolfe will serve as the keynote speaker.

Professor Maathai is the founder of the Green Belt Movement, a group that provides income and sustenance to millions of people in Kenya through the planting of trees. It also conducts educational campaigns to raise awareness about women's rights, civic empowerment and the environment throughout Kenya and Africa. Through the Green Belt Movement Maathai has assisted women in planting more than 20 million trees on their farms and on school grounds and church compounds. She was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize in 2004.

The summit begins at Chief Sealth High School at 9:00 a.m. The tree planting ceremony with Professor Maathai will be conducted at Pelly Place Ravine, located just off of Lincoln Park Way on Murray Avenue (north of Lincoln Park) at 11:30 a.m. The summit is organized by Peter Hubbard, a Lawton Elementary School teacher who was instrumental in starting the Lawton composting project. Students from Chief Sealth High School are producing the tree planting event, which also includes students from Gatewood Elementary and Denny Middle schools.

Chief Sealth High School is located at 2600 SW Thistle in West Seattle. Led by Principal John Boyd, Chief Sealth High School serves more than 900 students in grades 9-12. Starting this fall, the school offers the rigorous and prestigious International Baccalaureate program.

(more)

Seattle Earth Summit II topics include:

At Chief Sealth High School

- 9:15 a.m. Photographer Art Wolfe: Pelly Project and Travels to the Edge
- 10:00 a.m. Green Seattle Project
- 10:30 a.m. SPS Resource Conservation Website and School Action Plans
- 11:00 a.m. School Lunch Composting

At Pelly Place Ravine

- 11:30 a.m. Tree Planting Ceremony with Professor Maathai

At Chief Sealth High School

- 1:00 p.m. Washington Green Schools Project
- 1:20 p.m. Walk to School Bus Project
- 2:00 p.m. Bike to School Plans
- 2:30 p.m. Seattle Green Schools Network Website/Action Plan
- 3:00 p.m. Conclusion of event

For more information, please contact teacher Gary Thomsen at (206) 252-8598.

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