



# Media Advisory

## From Seattle Public Schools

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### Environmental Projects at Seattle Public Schools in April and May

During the months of April and May in celebration of Earth Month, Seattle Public Schools students, staff and volunteers will be participating in numerous environmental projects throughout the District. Environmental studies and projects support Seattle Public Schools' strategy to strength and align science and math curriculum as part of the District's strategic plan, *Excellence for All*.

The projects range from planting a rain garden at Montlake Elementary School to spring clean-up at Graham Hill Elementary. District grounds workers and gardeners will assist with each of these projects, providing expertise, tools and helping remove yard waste/debris for recycling.

Below is a list of some of the environmental activities taking place throughout Seattle Public Schools:

#### APRIL Events

Saturday, April 25, 2009

**8:30 a.m. – 1 p.m. Rainier Beach High School, 8815 Seward Park So.**

Working with 50 to 100 volunteers from Seattle University, students and staff at Rainier Beach High School, joined by Aki Kurose Middle School students, will help weed and mulch at the school. This work helps avoid the use of pesticides on the school grounds.

**9:00 a.m. – noon. Arbor Heights Elementary, 3701 SW 104<sup>th</sup> Street**

Arbor Heights Elementary volunteers will trim ivy and weed to beautify their school's front entry and playground.

**9:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. Graham Hill Elementary School, 5149 S. Graham Street**

Graham Hill Elementary is hosting its spring clean-up. Over twenty volunteers will weed all landscape and garden beds. The students and staff will be joined by Aki Kurose Middle School students as part of the Rainier Neighborhood Cleanup efforts.

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**9:30 a.m. – 3:30 p.m. Schmitz Park Elementary, 5000 SW Spokane Street**

Schmitz Park Elementary is also hosting its annual Spring Clean. 30 to 40 volunteers will work with students and staff to weed and mulch their landscape and garden beds.

**All Day. Adams Elementary, 6110 28<sup>th</sup> Avenue NW**

Adams Elementary school and community volunteers will be installing a new play structure.

**MAY events**

**Saturday, May 2**

**10 a.m. – 3 p.m. Olympic View Elementary School, 504 NE 95<sup>th</sup> Street**

The Olympic View PTA will host their annual Spring Clean to weed and mulch the school grounds, beginning with the front entry landscape beds.

**8 a.m. – 3 p.m. Mercer Middle School, 1600 S. Columbian Way**

T-Mobile Volunteers, led by City Year, will paint murals and clean up landscaped areas and the school garden. Volunteers will also be doing projects at the adjacent City Parks field.

**Monday, May 4, 2009**

**Montlake Elementary, 2409 22nd Avenue E – Install rain garden**

Working with the Community Day School Association (CDSA), Montlake Elementary School students and staff will install native plant species in a pilot rain garden. CDSA has been working with the Sierra Club to provide environmental educational opportunities to Montlake Elementary School and the CDSA non-profit afterschool program.

Montlake students have been learning the benefits of a rain garden in diverting rain water into the ground instead of directly into a storm drain, polluting Puget Sound. The students will use the rain garden as an environmental learning tool and understand the impact of pollutants on endangered wild salmon and orcas. The garden will provide a resource for hands-on lessons about the importance of planting native plant species that will help collect, filter, and absorb pollutants from storm water runoff

**Saturday, May 9**

**9 a.m. – 4 p.m. Roosevelt High School, 1410 NE 66<sup>th</sup> Street**

Volunteers from City Year's Young Heroes program (over 100 high school-aged students from various schools) will be joined by Roosevelt parents, students and staff to weed and mulch the landscape beds around the high school.