

For their outstanding contributions in schools, King County recognizes the following Earth Heroes and their work to protect the environment.

## Teachers

### **Cathy Buck Tolt Middle School, Carnation 425-844-4600**

Through her year-long Rivers Project, Cathy instills in her students an appreciation for the environment with scientific study in the classroom and in the field, and with hands-on project work that revolves around the creation and upkeep of a native plant garden. Cathy has involved the surrounding community, both as donors of time and resources, and as beneficiaries of her students' service projects.

### **Erin Pless Shadow Lake Elementary, Maple Valley 425-413-6100**

Erin was the catalyst for her school's outdoor environmental education site, contributing her personal funds, canvassing businesses for donations of supplies, mobilizing parents as volunteers, and leading her students in the restoration of the site to encourage the return of wildlife. She continues her work on the site as the leader of the school's Environmental Club.

### **Jeannine Sieler Bellevue High School, Bellevue 425-456-7000**

Under Jeannine Sieler's direction, the Earthbound Club has matured into one of the school's most highly regarded and proactive associations. Her guidance, inspiration and example have resulted in active and enthusiastic student participation in tree-plantings, a water restoration project, recycling, a trail renovation, and educational events such as a lecture on global warming that filled the auditorium to capacity.

### **Wendy Shol Crestwood Elementary, Covington 253-373-7634**

Wendy is in her thirteenth year as advisor of the Defenders of the Planet, an environmental program that includes students in kindergarten through sixth grade and advocates the understanding, respect and preservation of the environment. Among its notable achievements is collecting enough money from aluminum recycling to donate therapy equipment to Children's Hospital.

### **Level II Teaching Team**

#### **Secondary Bilingual Orientation Center, Seattle 206-378-2772**

Tadesse Gobu, Joan Irvin, Lori Leberer, Judy Nakamura and Irene Rodriguez collaborate on a program called "Living in Puget Sound," which teaches students newly arrived from other countries about Northwest ecology and its stewardship. Planting trees and native plants in local parks, creating murals for public display, and practicing recycling are among the activities of these new citizens.

## Staff

### **Tommy Hayes and Jenny Langenbach**

#### **YMCA Earth Service Corps, Seattle 206-382-5013**

As AmeriCorps Members, Tommy and Jenny volunteer 40 hours per week, spreading their knowledge, commitment and passion about the environment at 10 Seattle high schools. They have helped guide and develop leadership skills among students, organized educational workshops, and have established a strong regional network of environmental clubs where students from different school and communities can develop projects together.

### **Grayce Mitchell Ballard High School, Seattle 206-252-1000**

A full-time volunteer and a true believer in a life dedicated to service, Grayce, with the Ballard Earth Service Corps, has created a successful and sustainable recycling program. The program, which involves the participation and support of students, teachers and custodians, has served as a model for other Seattle high schools.

## Students

### **Nathan Brouwer Seattle Pacific University, Seattle 206-286-7033**

A senior Biology major at SPU, Nathan is also Recycling Coordinator, president of the Environmental Stewardship Club, and a recipient of the SPU Living-Learning grant for his proposal for improving residence hall recycling. Among his activities are managing an education campaign, coordinating with recycling haulers, and partnering with Student Employment Services to provide employment in the recycling program for a special needs high school student.

### **Tiffany Gamman Brookside Elementary, Lake Forest Park 206-368-4140**

A fifth grader, Tiffany leads the school's recycling program. Volunteering recess time to collect and organize the materials, she takes pride in her work. Her leadership is an encouraging example to all students and staff at Brookside, making everyone aware of the need to conserve limited resources.

### **Kristopher Hughes, Eric MacDonald, Joseph Reding Holy Family, Auburn 253-833-5130**

As Co-commissioners of Resource and Conservation at Holy Family, Kristopher and Eric use creativity and humor to encourage their classmates to recycle and to conserve resources. They are joined by Joseph who dons cape and mask as Recycle Man to educate others on what is recyclable and what should be thrown away. All three eighth-graders exhibit a deep commitment to the environment and their community.

### **Megan Stephens Glenridge Elementary, Renton 253-373-7494**

At Megan's urging, the school's dormant Environmental Club was resurrected. She was instrumental in establishing the Salmon in the Classroom program at Glenridge, and has played a vital role in other projects such as storm drain stenciling and organizing a book exchange. She plans to participate with other club members in an environmental program at the University of Washington and is committed to making sure the club at Glenridge continues next year.

## Programs

### **Chris Wilder and Environmental Sciences Academy Mount Rainier High School, Des Moines 206-433-2445**

Under the leadership and vision of teacher Chris Wilder, the Academy serves an integral role in the school's commitment to ensure that students have an understanding of the opportunities and responsibilities for environmental leadership. Among the Academy's projects are wetland restoration, creation of a tree nursery, establishment of an urban horticulture greenhouse, and a partnership with Pacific Middle School on an organic garden.

### **Post 84 - Garfield Outdoor Education Program Garfield High School, Seattle 206-252-2270**

This 15-year-old, student-run organization is dedicated to exposing students at Garfield and other Seattle schools to the wilderness experience to learn the value of the natural environment. In addition to Survival and Desert School that teach survival and leadership skills, the program sponsors work parties to clean up the forest and repair trails or damaged property.

### **The Northwest School, Seattle 206-682-7309**

The Northwest School's Environment Program, which involves the care and cleaning of the school facilities and grounds, is carried out by teams of students and faculty members. Stewardship of their campus, which is intended to focus students' attention on the consequences of their actions on the immediate as well as global environment, has also extended to community clean-ups and graffiti paint-outs.

## Schools

### **Cinquegraneli Montessori School, Seattle 206-789-2942**

This school for three to seven-year-olds adopted and maintain a nearby open space which the children use for environmental education projects. Children learn respectful land use and gardening, and have conducted science projects on the site. They coordinate with community groups in caring for the site, which also serves as inspiration for art projects.

### **Valley View Elementary, SeaTac 206-433-2377**

Based on its philosophy to involve the entire school in a service learning project each year, Valley View embarked on its Bring Back the Salamanders Project. Students tested the soil and drew up a list of native plants, educated neighbors about the effects of pesticides on wildlife, and hacked away blackberry bushes as staff and parents joined in to plant fifty-six new plants and shrubs. Valley View's wooded area is now on the comeback.

The Earth Heroes at School Program is part of a countywide Earth Legacy Initiative, which consists of a number of programs that protect and enhance the environment of King County.

[www.metrokc.gov/earthlegacy](http://www.metrokc.gov/earthlegacy)