

## Awards Presentation — May 6, 2004

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

### Teachers

#### Jeff Cleaveland – Ballard High School 206-252-1000

Jeff teaches his chemistry students how they can live responsibly by helping to conserve natural resources and reduce greenhouse gasses, groundwater pollution, and ozone depletion. He has involved his students in projects such as designing a plan for the new Ballard Civic Center using environmentally friendly practices, and providing energy-saving compact fluorescent bulbs to the community as part of a Porch Light Project.

#### Cathy Garrand – Kenmore Junior High School 425-489-6211

Cathy has spearheaded an ongoing project to restore an area adjacent to Kenmore Junior High. She has recruited volunteers, obtained donations and grants, and educated her students and herself on soil features, water quality, and native plants. The goal of the project is to create an awareness, appreciation, and continued stewardship of an open green space, and give students an opportunity to contribute to their community.

#### Vince Howard – Kentridge High School 253-373-7345

Vince is exposing hundreds of students to the importance of water quality in urban creeks for healthy salmon runs. Using detailed maps provided by the City of Kent, his students locate access points to collect water samples. They monitor for eight water quality characteristics and present their findings to a local elementary school class. Vince has secured funding to further develop his project model and share it with other educators.

#### Sheryl Lundahl – Parkwood Elementary School 206-368-4150

Sheryl has facilitated Parkwood's 3-6th grade volunteer after-school Recycling Club for several years, encouraging 20 or more students each year to take on this responsibility. Sheryl's creativity and enthusiasm have inspired the students to take actions beyond emptying recycling containers, such as educating the student body with recycling tips through a bulletin board and through morning announcements.

#### David O'Keefe – Snoqualmie Elementary School 425-831-8050

David has developed an inspiring nature program for his first-grade classroom. By constructing a walk-in terrarium with native plants and animals borrowed from the Snoqualmie Elementary Wetlands Trail, he has enabled his students to experience natural processes up close. Classroom studies are integrated with field studies and at the end of the school year, he and his students return all borrowed native life to their natural habitat.

#### Michael Popelka – St. Therese School 206-324-0460

Michael's enthusiasm and dedication have contributed to the success of the Madrona Woods Project, an effort to restore native species and reclaim habitat. Under Michael's supervision, students study the flora and fauna of the Woods, rid their assigned plot of invasive species and replace them with native plants. He has also inspired many parents to assist in this integral part of the sixth-grade science curriculum.

#### Nancy Reidel – Kent Elementary School 253-373-7497

An advocate for the environment, Nancy makes sure her fifth-graders learn about and practice preservation of their natural surroundings. Noticing a neglected garden space on campus, her fifth-graders, under her guidance, initiated an effort to learn about soil composition and native plants, and to determine a strategy for restoring this part of the campus. The project has had a big impact on the classroom as well as the entire school in raising awareness about the importance of protecting the environment.

#### Mike Ritscher – Holy Rosary School 206-937-7255

Nine years ago Mike developed two science units that continue to be highlights in the seventh and eight-grade curriculum. These units on raising and releasing salmon, and planting and harvesting an organic garden give students first-hand experience in the importance of preserving and protecting our natural environment. Mike's own commitment, dedication and enthusiasm have been contagious and have served as a model for the students.

#### Patricia Shelton – Odle Middle School 425-456-6600

Patty has spearheaded environmental projects at Odle Middle School since 1996. Her achievements include implementing the Salmon in the Classroom program, acquiring Audubon Sanctuary designation for the campus, leading the effort to restore a wetlands, and obtaining funding to establish a covered classroom near the wetlands for outdoor study. Patty's actions have helped instill a reverence for the environment in her students.

### Students

#### Ervin Chavarria – John Stanford International School 206-252-6080

Ervin, a fifth-grader, is a leader in his school's recycling program. He has worked to organize teachers and students to effectively participate in the recycling program. He has coordinated with custodial staff to structure efficient recycling routes, trained new students to recycle, and created posters to demonstrate the importance of recycling. Ervin has ably assumed a position of leadership and responsibility in this program.

#### Earth Freaks Students – Kamiakin Junior High School 425-823-6750

Having researched and learned about watershed issues, the students in Carrie Stauffer's service learning class adopted Edith Moulton Park near their school. For their first volunteer event, they designed flyers, wrote news releases, and solicited donations of garbage bags and refreshments from local businesses. They plan quarterly clean-up events to demonstrate their commitment to protecting this neighborhood park.



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## Staff/Volunteer

### **Jean Allison, Norma Gilbert, Darlene Hatcher – Bennett Elementary School 425-456-4800**

Lead custodian, Darlene, and lunchroom staff, Jean and Allison, worked as a team to successfully pilot a milk carton recycling program in partnership with the City of Bellevue, Bellevue School District and King County. Darlene, Jean and Norma actively educated students on the importance of recycling. Because of their efforts, approximately 4,600 milk cartons are recycled each week at Bennett Elementary.

### **John Gates – Newport Heights Elementary School 425-456-5500**

As lead custodian, John has made tremendous impacts on waste reduction and recycling. John reorganized the classroom recycling collection system, implemented lunchroom recycling changes, participated in educating students on recycling, and purchased recycling containers and signs through coordination with the City of Bellevue, Bellevue School District and King County. John's positive attitude and hard work have made a difference at Newport Heights.

### **Gary Hartness – Bellevue High School 425-456-7000**

Gary, a graduate of Bellevue High School in the sixties, volunteers his time to ensure that the school's recycling program runs efficiently. He has taken on the responsibility of paper recycling in the activities, main and counseling offices, as well as the collection of plastic bottles. Gary has made recycling very visible as he goes around school, making sure students realize the importance of recycling to the environment.

### **Marian Peiffer – Newport Heights Elementary School 425-456-5500**

As principal at Newport Heights, Marian has had a great impact on recycling and waste reduction through her advocacy, support and action. She ensured that students and staff were educated about the recycling program, sought resources to reduce junk mail, and was instrumental in the purchase of new recycling containers. Without Marian's positive attitude and follow-through, the new recycling programs would not have been possible.

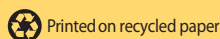
### **Matt Walters – Villa Academy Extended Day Program 206-524-8885**

Matt implemented a dynamic after-school ecology program that has resulted in an Extended Day Program where the Earth is celebrated through exploration and conservation everyday. In addition to teaching weekly ecology lessons and leading an effort to restore a woodland habitat, Matt has reduced waste by replacing paper cups and plates with durable dishware and eliminating wastefully packaged items.

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)

King County thanks Ballard Market in Seattle for floral donations and Seattle Audubon Society and Chinook Book for prize donations.



## Program/School

### **Northwest School and Northwest School Environmental Interest Group 206-682-7309**

Students and staff have participated in stream and wetland restoration projects 10 to 12 times a year for the past three years. They have been involved in planting native trees and shrubs, weeding and mulching, trail work, nursery work, and construction of deer fencing throughout King County. In addition, their Environmental Interest Group, a student organization, has accomplished a long list of other environmental projects.

### **West Seattle High School Environmental Science Academy 206-252-8450**

With teacher Kevin Barth, the Environmental Science Academy became involved with the restoration of Sanislo Elementary School wetland. They removed invasive plants, planned and prepared the site, planted native species, and applied mulch. By helping to restore the wetland to its natural state, these students have improved the future water quality of the Duwamish River, a vital habitat for fish and wildlife.

### **White Center Ponds Project - Cascade Middle School 206-433-2551**

Cascade was the first school to participate in the King County Lake Stewardship Program, which enlists volunteers to monitor the water quality of the county's small lakes. The students collect daily and weekly data that is used in the management plans to improve the ecosystem of Lake Hicks. Through their stewardship work, the students learn about the environment, assist King County, and benefit their local community.

### **White Center Ponds Project - Evergreen High School 206-433-2311**

Evergreen High School has been one of three schools participating in the youth-driven White Center Ponds Project. Students turned out in impressive numbers for restoration and tree-planting activities at nearby Lake Hicks in the fall and again this spring. Not only have these students contributed to improved water quality and habitat, they have engaged in leadership development, community building, and youth empowerment.

### **White Center Ponds Project - White Center Heights Elementary School 206-433-2437**

Fourth, fifth and sixth-grade students at White Center Heights have been gathering data at Lake Hicks since December 2003 and have participated in work parties to remove invasive species, plant trees, and spread mulch. Students have learned how delicate an ecosystem is and how they can make a difference by contributing their time and working together with community organizations for the common good.

