

**Awards Presentation • May 5, 2005**

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

## Teachers

**Sara Davis, Linda Reiter and Wendy Leishman**  
**Black Diamond Elementary School 360-802-7570**

Teachers Sara Davis and Linda Reiter and custodian Wendy Leishman have spearheaded a waste reduction and recycling campaign that included reuse of paper in the staff work room, a switch from disposable lunchroom items to reusable trays and utensils and recyclable drink containers, and a project in which students wrote letters to protest the amount of junk mail being delivered to the school. They are further increasing their recycling efforts with help from the King County Waste Reduction and Recycling Assistance Program whose audit rated the school's current program as Outstanding.

**Alonda Droege – Highline High School 206-433-2511**

Alonda Droege created three watershed projects to enable her students to better understand basic ecological concepts and to contribute to improving and maintaining the environment. Alonda developed A Living Watershed, Phenology of Westcrest Park, and most recently, the Miller/Des Moines Creek monitoring program. These watershed education programs allow the community to see teens as productive members of the community. Data collected by students have been used by local governments to make decisions about park trails, open spaces, stream enhancement and pollution problem areas.

**Doug Emery – Beaver Lake Middle School**  
**425-837-4162**

Doug Emery has for many years been putting extraordinary energy into lesson plans that promote life-long learning about the environment for his students. Among his many projects is an outdoor environmental packet he developed to promote stewardship of the wetlands area behind Beaver Lake Middle School. Doug was also responsible for involving students in the clean-up and long-term preservation efforts of the area as well as the installation of interpretive signs that provide visitors with information on specific plants, trees and animal habitats.

**Justine Hurley and Marte Peet – Lockwood Elementary School 425-402-6328**

The stream stewardship program developed by Justine Hurley and Marte Peet is an out-of-classroom experience that includes sampling water quality, collecting aquatic insect data, and stream mapping. Data collected by students has been provided to the City of Kenmore and the Washington State Department of Ecology. Students have also performed community service by picking up litter, removing invasive plants and erecting public education signs at Harbor Village Marina and other sites.

**Paul Iacobazzi – Sacajawea Middle School**  
**253-945-4900**

Paul worked with the City of Federal Way and King County to establish paper recycling in the classroom, can and bottle recycling program in the cafeteria, and printer cartridge recycling for the school's computers. He coordinated Recycle Week, involving students in producing posters, setting up a recycling information booth, and labeling recycling containers with information on what can and can't be recycled. He also added information about recycling to the school's website.

**Tasha Kiemel – Discovery Elementary School**  
**425-837-4071**

Tasha started a Green Team with her students in September 2004 and since then has facilitated a number of projects, including a litter pickup on school grounds, designing and distributing boxes to collect and reuse scrap paper to the school community, setting up and making presentations about a classroom worm bin, and broadening a school recycling program to include aluminum cans and plastic containers. Tasha has inspired her students to do whatever they can to help protect the environment.

**Mary Mondt and students – Lea Hill Elementary School 253-931-4982**

Mary Mondt and her students have made the environment an integral and continuous element in their learning since the beginning of the school year. Among their more than a dozen projects are participation in creating a Washington State Region Natural Resources Mural, collecting litter along the school's nature trail, and setting up a demonstration salmon habitat and becoming Salmon Masters. Every year Mary and her students organize Earth Day activities to increase awareness of the environment among the student body.



Visit the King County Department of Natural Resources and Parks website for environmental resources for teachers and students.

<http://dnr.metrokc.gov/topics/learning/LRNtop.htm>

King County thanks Ballard Market in Seattle for floral donations and Seattle Audubon Society, Seattle Tilth, and the Seattle Mariners for prize donations.

## Staff/Volunteer

### **Therese Becker and Steve Gardner – International School 425-456-6500**

Therese, a member of the cafeteria staff, and Steve, a custodian, worked with King County and the City of Bellevue to boost recycling in the school cafeteria. They helped to establish a system for collection of food waste for pick-up by a local hauler and delivery to a composting facility. Therese and Steve wanted involved not only their kitchen staff in the project, but the students as well. In addition, the school added bottle, can and milk carton collection. As a result, they have reduced their lunch garbage by over 50 percent.

### **Dusty Duke – Issaquah Valley Elementary School 425-837-7201**

As lead custodian, Dusty has worked to make cleaning, waste collection and recycling more efficient and environmentally safe. He worked with the Issaquah School District maintenance department to pilot the use of a new environmentally safe cleaner which soon became standard for the entire district. He worked with the PTA Environmental Ed Committee to expand the waste reduction and recycling program. Dusty's numerous contributions have positively affected not only the physical environment, but the education of both students and staff in becoming better stewards of the natural environment.

### **Mustafa El Atrash – Enatai Elementary School 425-456-5200**

Mustafa, lead custodian at Enatai, has taken the initiative to continually improve the school's recycling program. He works with a group of students to collect recyclable materials from the classroom, and has started a milk carton recycling program which has resulted in 1,000 milk cartons being recycled each week. With the City of Bellevue, he created a Recycling Week on campus, involving students in the production of recycling displays, morning announcements about waste reduction and recycling, and other outreach activities.

### **Lori Madeo – Crestwood Elementary School 253-373-7634**

Lori is a parent volunteer for the Defenders of the Planet environmental club at Crestwood Elementary. Three years ago she came to the rescue by recruiting a dozen parents when the club faced dissolution due to lack of adult supervision. Since then Lori's coordination efforts have allowed the club of 100 students to successfully accomplish numerous projects. She also organizes the club's annual spring plant sale and was responsible for securing a grant to build the arbor in front of the school that is home to the state insect.

### **Susan Meyer – Issaquah Valley Elementary School 425-837-7200**

Over the past four years, Susan has contributed her time and energy to enhance environmental learning at the school. She participated in the creation of two learning gardens and has taken the lead in maintaining them; she works with classroom teachers in planning and presenting lessons on wetlands and salmon migration; she spearheaded an expanded waste reduction and recycling program; and she writes monthly articles for the school newsletter on the benefits of recycling. She not only inspires the school with her vision, but takes the initiative to secure resources, connect with outside agencies, work collaboratively with school personnel, and implement new programs.

## Students

### **Hannah McHardy – Nova High School 206-252-3500**

Hannah founded the Old Growth Project at Nova High School where she and her classmates persuaded the administration to switch from using virgin fiber paper to chlorine-free paper made of 100 percent post-consumer waste. She organized teach-ins to educate young people about the destruction of old growth forests, and hand-delivered two thousand letters from concerned students to top timber industry executives. She is currently active with for Rainforest Action Network, calling stores that use endangered forest products and presenting them with alternatives. Hannah is driven by genuine passion for the Earth and an urge to share her knowledge with other young people.

### **Roots and Shoots Club – Peter Kirk Elementary School 425-822-7449**

The Roots and Shoots Club of 23 students and 14 parents initiated a collaborative effort with King County and the Peter Kirk lunchroom staff, custodians and students to set up a lunchroom recycling program. Club members promoted the recycling program throughout the school and educated other students on proper sorting of recyclables, compostables, and garbage. The program has served as a great model of cooperation and environmental action for the Peter Kirk school community.

**Congratulations To All!**

water

air

land