



Earth Day 2005

On Friday, April 22, 2005 the students of The Hilldale School joined thousands of people throughout the United States in celebrating the 35th anniversary of Earth Day. Environmental stewardship is one of the important themes embedded in our school's mission statement. All Hilldale students study science concepts at least three hours each week. To enhance the concepts that our students learn, our teachers lead their classes in multi-sensory, hands-on projects that permit the students to make science come alive. In addition, our students learn about environmental issues by discussing relevant topics in the news. Students use multiple sources, such as newspapers, magazines, the internet, and videos/DVDS to learn about environmental issues locally, nationally, and internationally.

On Earth Day, Hilldale Students acted on the saying, "think globally and act locally," by getting their hands dirty and actively doing something about the environment. Last year the students were taught about natural, organic fertilizer such as cow manure, perennial flowers, and the proper way to plant flowering scrubs. Two gardens were planted: a mixture of yellow daises and purple petunias were placed along the fence next to the lower building parking lot, to help brighten the area first seen by visitors and parents; other flowers were planted near the entrance to the swimming pool. The students then took ownership of the gardens and watered them every other day. Since we only have one hose and all the students wanted to help, we filled up old milk jugs and got everyone involved. Both gardens are flourishing and should provide flowers for years to come. And the kids had fun!

For Earth Day 2005, we expanded our plantings and created multiple new gardens: Under the Hilldale sign and near the guard rail; near the middle building driveway; in the five planters around the pool; near the kindergarten deck; and in the planter boxes near the basketball court. The lower school science students have now taken responsibility for watering these new gardens.

On Saturday, April 23rd, the Hilldale Family Association continued the Earth Day celebration by finishing the gardens the students had started the previous day, and by working on many other campus beautification projects. Many hands make the work go quickly, and the campus has been spruced up in so many ways.

Other environmental projects that are ongoing at Hilldale include a compost bin, recycling contests, and efforts to reduce Hilldale's high energy costs during the winter months. Our students are actively engaged and encouraged to use their science and environmental knowledge! And it shows around the campus!

Thank you students, parents, and teachers!