

## 2011 GreenUp Day at Marion Cross School

You might wonder why there were so many students outside on the playground last week. On Wednesday and Thursday, October 20-21, 2011, the whole school community participated in activities for GreenUp Day. We were trying to clean up our school landscape to make the area healthy and pretty. This was also helping the environment so the plants can grow even better next year. Finally, we were happy to see that sixty-five pounds of potatoes were gathered and made ready to donate to the Haven.

Students in all grade levels worked together on jobs, from the youngest to the oldest in school. The Kindergarteners paired with third graders to put compost in the garden and rake the front basketball court. First graders raked leaves with fourth graders, picked up trash around the playground, and planted bulbs in the flower beds. Second graders worked in the garden ripping out crops that had gone by after vigorous growth during the summer. After the third graders worked with Kindergarteners, they set out to harvest crops for stone soup.

Meanwhile, fourth graders were found raking leaves with first graders on the back playground. They pulled out buckthorn, an invasive species, along the nature trail. Fifth graders put mulch on the nature area from the big pile at end of parking lot. They also pulled out buckthorn from along the trails. Students in grade six prepared the side flower beds for a long winter. They trimmed plants with clippers and loppers while digging with trowels to soften the soil for the first graders planting bulbs. Many sixth graders worked over the last two weeks putting the vegetable garden to bed by pulling out weeds and moving rocks with shovels. In addition, sixth graders picked, scrubbed, boxed, and weighed the potatoes that we were able to

harvest. Many also worked as photojournalists to shoot pictures of the event and write this article.

Our school's final activity was to gather in the multi-purpose room and see many of the photos taken during the two days. We sang songs and took pride in our hard work. It was a successful GreenUp Dy for everyone!