



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Japhet School Families Clean Royal Oak Park & Arboretum

Clawson, Michigan - Japhet School families and students gathered on April 30, a Sunday morning, behind the Royal Oak Mahany/Meininger Senior Community Center to clean the Worden East park and the arboretum. They raked leaves, cleared paths, picked up trash, and readied the area for everyone to visit and enjoy.

Japhet School just celebrated its ninth year as a Michigan Green School. It holds an Evergreen designation, which is the highest award available. Japhet School recycles all possible materials to SOCRRA and has a volunteer group of parents who take away other materials that cannot go in the curbside bin. It participates in the Crayola ColorCycle program (to return dried up markers), has worm composting centers, strives to use little to no styrofoam in food service, integrates recycled materials in art projects, and much more. Students are taught how to pack waste-free lunches, and the school hosts guest scientists such as beekeepers and water quality specialists to engage students in hands-on activities. This year, a whole class of students each chose an environmental scientist to research, and then each student presented his or her research to the school community. The school also has an award-winning character education program, and the character qualities of thrift, peace, and respect for others (there are 18 total) all engage students in thinking and acting for the good of the environment.

"We're looking forward to celebrating 10 years as a Michigan Green School next year," says Pam Mazurkiewicz, the school's reading specialist and librarian who chairs the application process, and she joined families on Sunday. "More important, though, is that children understand what it's all about. Japhet students learn what it means to be stewards of their environment. It's teaching them to be guardians of their planet and of their future."

Picture caption suggestion: Japhet School students, parents, and staff came together in a morning of service and cleaned Royal Oak's Worden East park and arboretum on April 30.

About Japhet School: Founded in 1973, Japhet School is an independent school, serving children the metropolitan Detroit area in preschool through eighth grade. Its mission is to nurture and prepare each child for life by integrating character education with a strong academic program. The school provides small classes of fewer than 20 students in each, which enables teachers to challenge students with academic material that is appropriate for their intellectual readiness, regardless of age or grade. Integrated with strong academics is Japhet School's national award-winning character education curriculum, which builds a peaceful community within the school and creates leaders with integrity. Japhet is a National School of Character: it was the first school in Michigan -- and the first independent school in the country -- to receive this award. To learn more about Japhet, visit www.japhetschool.org.

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Picture caption suggestion: Japhet School students, parents, and staff came together in a morning of service and cleaned Royal Oak's Worden East park and arboretum on April 30.



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