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Littleton Public Schools

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Littleton Middle School Students Revitalize Shaker Lane School's Garden



Sixth grade students Kailey Hannon, Olivia Olson, Katie Kulchuk and Maeve Tule after completing their project to renovate the Shaker Lane student garden. (Courtesy Photo)

LITTLETON -- Principal Michelle Kane is pleased to announce that months of hard work by four former Shaker Lane students culminated in the completion of a revitalized second grade garden on school grounds as part of a Girl Scout project.

On Friday, Sept. 14, the school celebrated the grand re-opening of the overhauled garden that was completed by Shaker Lane alums and current Littleton Middle School sixth graders Kailey Hannon, Katie Kulchuk, Olivia Olson and Maeve Tule -- with the guidance of troop leader Julie Kulchuk.

"It was hard work but really fun," Hannon said. "It makes me happy to know that all of the students at Shaker Lane will enjoy the new garden everyday when they go to school."

The girls began planting the seeds of their project last fall, and started the hands-on restoration work in May. Their effort to reinvigorate the garden served as the group's Girl Scouts Bronze Award project. The Bronze Award is the highest award a junior level Girl Scout can receive, and can only be obtained through an extended commitment to

community service. To earn the award, each girl must fulfill no fewer than 20 hours of service.

The girls combined to perform over 160 hours of service on their project.

"I'm so proud of the initiative that Kailey, Maeve, Olivia and Katie took to develop and execute this project," Principal Kane said. "They were committed to doing a great job throughout the whole process, and their hard work will benefit our entire school community for years to come."

To make the new garden a reality, the girls developed the concept for the project, secured funding and played a vital role in performing all of the landscaping and labor. In order to support their work, Hannon, Kulchuk, Olson and Tule conducted a pair of fundraisers -- a bake sale and a penny war between each grade level -- that raised a total of over \$1,800.

"We are very thankful to everyone who donated," Kulchuk said. "It really made an impact. We hope that the kids will enjoy the garden."

The girls also secured donations from Littleton Lumber, and spent time with Littleton resident and professional carpenter Michael Gott, who taught the girls about power tools like saws, drills and sanders, and guided the girls through the construction of the garden's brand new fence.

Upon completion, the girls unanimously agreed that working with the power tools was their favorite part of the project.

The garden itself features plants that native butterflies prefer, including milkweeds, asters, blueberries and butterfly weed. To coincide with re-dedicating the garden, the four Girl Scouts visited each second grade classroom at Shaker Lane and shared research they had done on butterflies, and butterflies have already begun making themselves at home at Shaker Lane.

As they got closer to completion, they got to see the natural processes they'd learned about take place before their eyes.

"Because we were building the garden, we got to see the caterpillars change to chrysalis and then to butterflies," Tule said. "It was really cool."

The garden has been certified by MonarchWatch.org as an official Monarch Waystation, which provides the resources necessary for monarch butterflies to produce successive generations and sustain their migration.

Several local groups and organizations supported the girls efforts by donating supplies and services, including Aubuchon Hardware, MJ Cataldo Landscape and Constructions, the Gruber family, Littleton Earthworks, Littleton Lumber and Neufell Tree and Landscape.

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Olivia Olson and Maeve Tule, along with Bob Kulchuk, moved part of the new fencing at the Shaker Lane garden. (Courtesy Photo)



Kailey Hannon, Maeve Tule and Michael Gott install new fencing while Julie Kulchuk works in the background at the Shaker Lane garden. (Courtesy Photo)



The students who gave the Shaker Lane's garden a face lift weren't afraid to get their hands dirty in the process. (Courtesy Photo)



The garden was designed to be especially accommodating to butterflies. (Courtesy photo)



The newly-completed garden features a variety of flowers and plants. (Courtesy Photo)

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