

TENNESSEAN COM

West End Middle installs new outdoor classroom

Written by

Lea Ann Overstreet | The Tennessean

5:31 PM, May. 4, 2011 |

West End Middle School students and staff have begun installation of the school's new outdoor classroom.

After being named Burpee Home Gardens 2011 "I Can Grow" Youth Garden Award recipient, receiving 500 vegetable and herb plants and \$2,500 toward garden supplies, the school has expanded its garden with several raised vegetable beds.

West End teacher and environmental club sponsor Erick Olmstead, who is Metro's 2012 Middle School Teacher of the Year, was instrumental in the school being chosen amid more than 220 community and urban school gardens.

Plans for the space are to incorporate youth-centered educational programs emphasizing nutrition and food production, environmental awareness and social responsibility.

The school will integrate the space into its curriculum, using it in lessons taught in all subjects.

"The transformation that occurs when

students move from a confined indoor environment to an outdoor classroom, where they can see plants growing in a garden and taste fresh vegetables, is amazing," said Julie Prince, vice president of West End's Parent Teacher Student Organization.

"The outdoor classroom and garden will provide the perfect opportunity to teach students about environmental respect, sustainability and the importance of community involvement."

Students got their hands dirty on April 28, helping plant the herbs and vegetables. The students eventually will have a complete outdoor classroom with a greenhouse and composting area.

Harding Academy students win Latin awards

In early March, Harding Academy seventh- and eighth-grade Latin classes participated in the National Latin Exam, a standardized

Advertisement



Make it Yours™

Browse thousands of designs for over 3,000 devices.

Get 15% off with code: SAVE15

15% OFF

Browse Designs

skinIt

Print Powered By  FormatDynamics™

TENNESSEAN COM

test given annually to about 140,000 students throughout the world. Out of 12 seventh-grade students in the class, nine received commendation from the National Latin Exam Committee.

The students receiving an award for outstanding performance on the exam are Eleanor Smith, Marco Mirnics, Alex Stevens, Brad Johnson, Harrison Kaminsky and Lauren Lewis. The students receiving an award for achievement on the exam are Rebekah Greenberg, Corinne Brooks and Davis Cavallo.

Out of 11 eighth-grade students, nine earned commendation for their achievements, and seven students received summa cum laude recognition, the highest award given. The seven students are Ian Scholer, Willo Weinstein, Morgan Shirey, JoHelen Baulch, Clay Cavallo, Parker Logan and Clay Andreen.

Daniel Mangum received magna cum laude recognition, and Will Johnston received cum laude recognition.

UNC junior wins National History Bee

Mark Arildsen, a University School of Nashville junior, is the national champion in the National History Bee held April 17 in Washington.

Mark won the Tennessee competition, which sent him to Washington, where he competed against 103 students from across the country.

The USN junior was one of four students nationwide to have a perfect score in the state bee preliminaries. Two of the other three such students were in the final four with Arildsen, and both of them are seniors.

At the national contest, Mark aced questions in categories such as American history between 1492 and 1796 and world history between 1066 and 1815.

“The contest is, in the words of the website, buzzer-based, so the pressure is strong,” said Connie Culpepper, communications director for USN. “Some contestants get flustered, but not Mark, who won the Tennessee Geography Bee when he was in middle school.”

Culpepper said that David Madden, director of the National History Bee and Bowl, predicts that next year’s competition will be televised on the History Channel.

“And we predict that Mark will be there, defending his title,” she said.

Advertisement



Make it Yours™
Browse thousands of designs for over 3,000 devices.
Get 15% off with code: SAVE15

15% OFF

skinit

Browse Designs

Print Powered By  FormatDynamics™

TENNESSEAN COM

Contact Lea Ann Overstreet at 615-259-8205 or loverstreet@tennessean.com.



Zoom

West End Middle School will incorporate the new garden and outdoor classroom into its curriculum. / Submitted

Advertisement

Make it Yours™

Browse thousands of designs for over 3,000 devices.
Get 15% off with code: SAVE15



[Browse Designs](#) **skin it**

Print Powered By  FormatDynamics™