

Arbor Day Activities Grow by Leaps and Bounds



This Friday, April 27, 50 Cumberland Elementary School fourth grade students will join more than 70,000 other fourth graders across America as they roll up their sleeves and plant a tree. Thanks to the generosity of Jackie Guinane, Coldwell/Banker Realty, each student will receive a tree seedling that may be planted in their yard once they arrive home. The Fourth Grade Forestry Project pairs private donors with schools in effort to remind students of the importance of trees.

In related news, the City of Des Plaines will observe National Arbor Day at South Elementary School, 1535 Everett, Des Plaines, IL on Friday, April 27, 2007 with a Chanticleer Pear tree donated by the City of Des Plaines and the Keep Des Plaines Beautiful Commission.

J. Sterling Morton, a Nebraska journalist, who appreciated and respected nature, founded Arbor Day. During the 1800s, the lack of trees in Nebraska led J. Sterling Morton to promote tree planting in his articles to individuals and organizations. His strong advocacy toward planting trees brought the first Arbor Day observation in 1874.

Arbor Day recognizes the value of trees and is celebrated in many locations around the world. Trees are a significant resource for many reasons: conserve energy, reduce air pollution, increase the quality and conservation of water, conserve wildlife environments and raise property values. Trees also play a factor in community pride and encourage serenity.

The City of Des Plaines has been named Tree City USA for the twentieth consecutive year.

The Arbor Day ceremony will begin at 1:00 PM at South Elementary School and will include the initiation of a Chanticleer Pear tree. The fourth grade class at South School researched the Chanticleer Pear tree and chose the tree to adorn its school grounds. Chanticleer Pear trees grow to a height of 40-60 feet tall in a straight conical manner. This ornamental tree has white flowers in the spring and red-orange to purple leaves in the autumn.

The students at South Elementary School will be reciting poems related to trees and readings about trees. There will also be artwork on display at South School. The Arbor Day Proclamation will be read at the event as well.

Everyone is welcome to join, and support, in the celebration of Arbor Day at South Elementary School. For more information, please contact 847/391-5650.