

Planting

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rooms, safe from the spring's blustery winds and cool nights. "The 650 sunflowers and perennials were selected to attract birds and butterflies to our schoolyard habitat," said Sylvia Maas, Dallas Elementary PTO member and project coordinator. "Also, we are planting trees and shrubs along the banks of the creek to slow the erosion caused by running water."

Picnic tables surround the area, which will be blooming with flora native to Pennsylvania, so students and teachers may use the schoolyard as an outdoor classroom. "The seniors are so enthusiastic about this project because this will be their legacy," said Sue Kotch who teaches Ecology and Ecology II at the senior high.

"In class, we spend most of our time concentrating on global ecology, the effects that population growth, energy consumption, resource depletion and disease have on large ecosystems," said Kotch. "This project is down to earth. The kids are not just reading about the problems we are facing, they are building something beautiful that will make a real difference."

The project seems to be having a positive impact already. Fifth grade students were nudging one another aside to proudly show off their growing seedlings. "We are doing this Earth Day project because we really want to make it pretty outside for everyone," said Sandy Coulter.

Natasha Perschau is looking forward to planting the seedlings when the weather permits. "I like to get dirty," she said.

Sylvia Maas doesn't mind a little patch of mud on her knees either. As she guided a wheelbarrow through the school doors she confessed, kidding, to being the school's worst nightmare. "I just think the days of wasting natural resources are behind us. It's important for kids to learn environmental responsibility from an early age," she said.



Kelsey Maas, 5, and Matt Gilbert, 6, students in Mrs. Harding's kindergarten class at Dallas Elementary School, dug into their work last week.

POST PHOTOS/KASIA McDONOUGH

"The seniors are so enthusiastic about this project because this will be their legacy."

Sue Kotch
Dallas High School ecology teacher



Alyssa Miller, 4th grade, Michael Glicini, 4th grade, and Kerry Neiman, a senior, took a break from planting.

Library hosting luncheon with author Iris Levy

Iris Levy, of Kingston, will be the "special author" at the Back Mountain Memorial Library's 11th Annual "Luncheon with a Special Author" on Thursday, April 29, at the Apple Tree Terrace, Newberry Estate, Dallas. A social hour is scheduled for 11:30 a.m. The luncheon starts at noon.



IRIS LEVY

Mrs. Levy will read from her book of poems, *Iris Petals*, which she has written over the years to celebrate the growth of her four

children from babyhood to maturity, enjoying their antics and empathizing with their problems. Copies of her book will be available at the luncheon.

An accomplished cook, Mrs. Levy spent 11 years hosting a TV program, "Cooking Good with Iris" on a local CBS affiliate. She has also been active in many community organizations. Her greatest joy, her family, consists of husband Richard Levy, four children and five grandchildren.

Reservations may be made at the Library, 675-1182. The cost of the luncheon, a major fundraising event for the Library is \$16.50.

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