

## News release



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### **Hawthorne Elementary School receives coveted [Monte Cristo](#) award**

*More than 50 students, parents and community members helped with annual beautification day*



*Photo of school grounds which led the Monte Cristo Selection Committee to vote to award the school*

Hawthorne Elementary School community not only cares for their students; they care about their school and neighborhood as well!

“On our annual beautification day we had more than 50 students, parents, and community members show up to pick up trash, pull weeds, and spread beauty bark,” said Principal Janelle Phinney.

Their work did not go unnoticed. Their school was selected as a winner of the *Neighborhood Friendly Business Monte Cristo* award. The Council of Neighborhoods chooses award winners from properties that have been nominated by the community.

The school neighborhood project extends beyond what is normal for school maintenance. The work expands to encompass learning experiences for students – and even provides a food source for families in the summer.

“Our counselor, [Gloria Stablein](#), and parents who worked with [AmeriCorp](#) (a corporation for national and community service) installed raised garden beds in the commons between our buildings,” explained Phinney. “Classes adopt the beds during the year, and family volunteers tend the gardens during the summer.”



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Created in 1994 by a committee of residents working with the Office of Neighborhoods, the *Monte Cristo Awards* recognize neighbors who help make Everett special by taking pride in their property. The awards inspire other neighbors to improve their homes and landscapes.

The awards event will be on Thursday, Oct. 10 at 6:30 p.m. at the [Everett Performing Arts Center](#).

“This year we're expanding our efforts and working with students and parent leaders to create a system for ongoing *Litter Patrol* and beautification of our neighborhood,” concluded Phinney. “Yeah Team Hawthorne!”

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