

Principal's Corner

West Side School has many traditions that make it special. Last week was *Earth Day/Birthday*, which is a day when we honor and celebrate the planet Earth and the history of West Side School on the same day. As part of the Earth Day celebration, West Side students decorated paper shopping bags with Earth Day messages (to be used by customers at *Wild By Nature*), made recycled paper, wrote poetry and sang songs honoring the Earth. CSH High School students taught them about the "Life of a Water Bottle" and ways to make the planet cleaner and greener. ("Reuse, Reduce, Recycle!") The PTG presented us with a brand new Maple bud tree, which was selected and planted for us by Mr. Bowden, a former West Side teacher. The students also learned about West Side School's "birthday" from Mr. Ted Hilton, who was principal here from 1953-1992. Mr. Hilton told the students the story of the first school, the Bungtown School, and how President George Washington stopped there on his way from Huntington to Oyster Bay on April 23, 1790 as it was being constructed. He reminded the students to look at the plank hanging in the airplane entrance, because it was part of a desk from that original school. The students listened attentively and asked questions. ("Was John Adams with Washington that day?") They were amazed that their school is 219 years old, and enjoyed singing "Happy Birthday, West Side!"

The students learned more than just the history of West Side School and how to recycle that day. They also learned that many, many people care deeply about their school and their environment.

Thank you to all of the people who contribute to making West Side School so special.

Warmly,

Mrs. Herschlein