



For Immediate Release
April 27, 2011
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Tree Lafayette to Hold Education Program and Planting at Miller Elementary

Tree Lafayette, a non-profit organization whose mission is to plant trees in an urban environment and to heighten awareness about the importance of planting trees in the urban landscape, will fulfill the public awareness part of its mission when the organization holds a presentation for third graders at the Thomas Miller Elementary School in Lafayette, Ind. on Friday, April 29, at 700 South 4th St. The program is scheduled to start at 1:45 p.m. and last until approximately 3:30.

Suzie Philyaw, a teacher at Miller elementary school, will instruct the indoor presentation, which will consist of a PowerPoint presentation followed by discussion and questions and answers. Each student will receive a lima bean in a cup with instructions on how to grow the bean into a small plant. The plant portion of the lesson will be taught by Laura Wright, who serves on the education committee of Tree Lafayette.

The instructional program teaches students about the basic components of a tree, the different kinds of trees, and the best ways to preserve them. The program is currently set up to present to three different third grade classes separately with these time slots:

1:45 – 2:15 – Mrs. Sommers' class

2:15-2:45 – Mrs. Smith's class

2:45 -3:15 – Mrs. Walgamuth's class

At approximately 3:15, all of these classes will gather outside for a tree planting with Tree Lafayette representatives.

“Planting the tree outside on the school grounds is an exciting way for the kids to help participate in the process of growing and caring for a tree,” says Rob Galbraith, chairman of the Tree Lafayette education committee. “They take ownership, and that is what we are trying to accomplish.”

Preparations for the tree planting outside of the school are being made by Greg Shaner, who is chairman of the Tree Lafayette Tree Committee.

The program at Miller elementary is part of a larger educational program that Tree Lafayette began in 2009, with the goal of educating all third graders in the Lafayette School Corporation about the importance of trees so that they may develop a lifelong appreciation for their value to our daily lives.

On May 13, 2011, Tree Lafayette plans another presentation to third graders at Edgelea Elementary School in Lafayette. In the fall 2011, Tree Lafayette plans to hold at least three more similar programs for third graders at Lafayette area schools.