

Beach schools celebrate Earth

BY DAWNTHEA PRICE/THE FREE LANCE-STAR | Posted: Sunday, May 3, 2015 12:00 am

Colonial Beach Public Schools partnered with Colonial Beach Green, a new organization dedicated to sustainability, on April 22, for Earth Day.

Jennifer Grigsby, Colonial Beach High School principal, opened the day's environmental celebration with a few remarks. Grigsby was joined by Colonial Beach Elementary School principal Michele Coates and Colonial Beach Green founder Tania Shand. Superintendent Kevin Newman and Councilman Mike Looney were also in attendance.

Landscape designer Diana Clopton guided students, ranging from Pre-K to 12th grade, who planted 14 trees of three species native to Virginia—willow oaks, redbuds and red chokeberries—at two sites on the combined school property.

A news release from Colonial Beach Green said that, as the students planted, members of Colonial Beach Green discussed various environmental topics, especially the far-reaching effects of trees and their importance to the environment.

According to the release, the willow oaks will need 100 years of unimpeded growth “to replace the habitat lost when mature oaks were blown down during Hurricane Irene in 2011.”

Colonial Beach Green's next meeting is at 4 p.m. May 17 at Monroe Bay Inn in Colonial Beach.

Dawnthea Price: 540/374-5403

dprice@freelancestar.com