



## Carla Hardy WV Project CommuniTree Planting at Valley View Elementary School

This was a very special project in many ways!

First, it was Valley View Elementary School's first ever CommuniTree planting and the students did a wonderful job! Even better, the planting took place on Arbor Day 2017 (Friday, April 28).

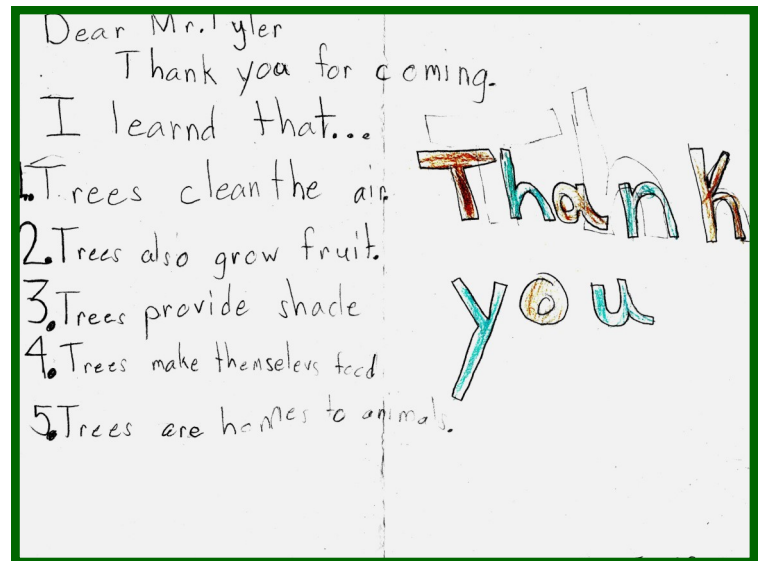
Cacapon Institute worked with the principal to select 16 different, unique tree species to plant throughout the playground. Once mature, these trees will provide amazing educational opportunities for the students and help the school create an arboretum-like environment for their students with lots of diversity in their tree species.

The students learned a lot through this project, as

evidenced by the many thank you cards that we received from the students where they wrote out what they learned and why they enjoyed planting trees with Cacapon Institute.

This project was also special in that the art class participated in planning for the project. For each of the different tree species, they painted river rocks and labeled them with the species name so that students and teachers can identify the trees in the future.

Another significant accomplishment for this project was that a film crew from WHAG-TV in Hagerstown ran a



piece on their nightly news, "[Students get their hands dirty in honor of Arbor Day](#)".

All in all, this was an amazing project with a great group of students!

As the students continue to grow older, so too will their trees grow and their arboretum begin to flourish to provide wonderful educational & recreational opportunities for future students.

### A word from the Project Leader, Brent Sherrard:

*"It was wonderful to see the students gain knowledge about the trees and the environment. The best part was seeing the excitement of the students as they took part in the actual planting. I think the planting will be a lifelong memory for the students."*



For more information, contact the Urban Watershed Forester at [ctree@cacaponinstitute.org](mailto:ctree@cacaponinstitute.org) or by calling 540-335-0687.