

# Cub Run Elementary



## 4<sup>th</sup> Graders Add Native Trees to the Playground

The 4<sup>th</sup> grade students at Cub Run Elementary, Penn Laird, Virginia, participated in Plant-a-Tree this spring. Students had one hour of classroom education led by Cacapon Institute to learn the main parts and functions of a tree along with the role they play in keeping our local rivers and streams clean.



Following the education day students had the opportunity to get their hands dirty to help keep their local stream cleaner. 114 students planted ten shade trees on their playground and along a steep hill overlooking the parking lot. These trees will provide vital shade to their play spaces during the hot months, increase wildlife habitat, and reduce stormwater runoff pollution. The trees located along the hill line will help to slow and decrease the amount of stormwater runoff coming from farther uphill and reduce

the amount of erosion occurring at the base of the hill.

Each class was able to plant two trees. The first tree was used as a demonstration tree to teach the proper technique and planting depth. For the second tree, the students had to work together to plant their tree under the supervision of Cacapon Institute and their teacher. Students enjoyed the opportunity to take leadership roles and test their new knowledge. They truly understood the importance of planting the tree properly for its survival and mastered the concept that if you plant it too low, it won't grow, but if you plant it high, it will survive. Students even named their trees and looked forward to seeing them grow.

Seven adult volunteers were essential for making the tree planting a success. Project leader Doug Heishman traveled to Inwood, WV, to pick up the trees prior to the planting, while project leader



Kim Martin helped with determining the location of the trees on the school campus and getting approval from the school board. Together Doug and Kim arranged for volunteers to dig holes for each of the trees prior to planting day on May 26<sup>th</sup>.

Through the volunteer efforts of the project leaders, adult volunteers, and the students, the school will be able to enjoy the new trees for years to come.

