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CONTACT:

Sue Sanford, Communication Director
The Bear Creek School
(425)-898-1720 ext. 308
Email: ssanford@tbcs.org
Website: www.tbcs.org



Community Service is a Whole School Commitment

The Bear Creek School holds their All School Community Service Day – March 25

***The Positive Turn Tour* featuring Hannah Teter, 2006 Olympic Snowboard Gold Medalist – April 2**

(Redmond, WA) -- On Tuesday March 25, Middle School and Upper School students from The Bear Creek School will be spending time throughout the local community, focused on the needs of others and tackling projects large and small in acts of service.

Bear Creek Middle School students (grades 7, 8) and their advisors will be heading to Marymoor Park to undertake community service work for the park. When asked, “Isn’t clearing up Marymoor Park the responsibility of King County?” James Woollard, Middle School Head replied “Yes, but they can always use more help. We are all called to be stewards of His Creation - the fact that government employees are paid to look after the park does not negate our own responsibility to take care of it also. Our task for Bear Creek School Community Service Day last year was to clear rampant blackberry bushes beside the Sammamish River. To their very great credit, the boys tackled their mission with gusto and literally transformed the appearance of the river trail. Other students, including the girls and the advisors, were engaged in similar beautification projects throughout Marymoor Park and succeeded in making a dramatic impact. I was proud of their efforts and the staff at Marymoor Park thanked us profusely for the professional way in which the students had gone about their tasks.”

David Miller, Community Service Director states “There is an explicit Biblical mission for us to love our neighbor. We also have a specific calling to help those in need – as in the story of the Good Samaritan. Community Service Day is an opportunity to teach our students about the value of service and reaching out to the community.” He goes on to say, “It is important that we recognize the blessings we have as a community and dedicate what we have been given to God. One small way we can do this is by taking a day out of our spring schedule and doing service for others.”

The Bear Creek Upper School students (grades 9 – 12) will be spending their day in support of the following organizations: Northwest Harvest, Camp Gilead, Redmond Parks, Eagles Nest, Camp Sambica, 1st Baptist Church, Girl Scouts Camp, UGM-South Seattle warehouse & Thrift Store, Seattle Brilllee Library, Aegis Living, Friends of Youth and Northwest Harvest Cherry St. FoodBank.

Tin-Yu (Todd) Lien a Bear Creek senior has this to say about Community Service Day. “Going out to the community and serving one another always excites me because I can use whatever I am given to spread the love of God, to help and to see others being filled with joy.” Allison Hooker another senior reflects, “I like being able to help people out as a group with my friends. Community Service Day gives us an opportunity to come together for something beyond our school.”

While the Lower School students at Bear Creek don't spend Community Service Day offsite they will spend part of their day participating in an act of service to benefit the community and reflecting on the importance of community service. Throughout the school year lower school classes participate in several other community service projects. We are committed to helping our students become servant leaders as they reach out to those in need in their own community and around the world. The following chart showcases the Lower School projects for this school year.

<i>Lower School Grade Level Community Service Information</i>			
Grade K	Mitten Drive	Christmas Season	Hopelink
Grade 1	Food Drive	April	Redmond Food Bank
	Collecting Spanish Bibles for children in Mexico along with sending a gift box for each child. To be delivered by 2nd grade teacher Ms. Whitmore during a mission trip.	April	YWAM
Grade 2	Letter writing and care packages to Troops in Iraq	April	
Grade 3	Collect books for Half Pint - a new library at Children's Hospital	April	Children's Hospital and Half-Price Books
Grade 4	Collect shoeboxes of supplies/gifts for children in desperate situations around the world	Christmas Season	Operation Christmas Child/ Samaritans Purse
Grade 5	Raised money towards the purchase of goats through World Vision. Valley Campus students donated food to local food banks recognizing the needs around us.	November	World Vision/Food Banks
Grade 6	Created Gingerbread Houses for the joy of children in the hospital at Christmas.	December	Children's Hospital
	Put together beading kits and Valentine notes for older children in the hospital.	February	

Any non-profit organizations that are interested in hosting Bear Creek students for next year's Community Service Day can email Community Service Director David Miller at dmiller@tbcs.org.

The Positive Turn Tour

On Wednesday April 2nd, The Bear Creek School is hosting an event for their Middle and Upper School students called [The Positive Turn Tour](#), with visiting speakers Justina Chen Headley and Hannah Teter. This tour is aimed at inspiring teens to give back to their community.

Presenting at the event:

- Hannah Teter, 2006 Olympic Snowboard Gold medalist, who donated all her winnings to World Vision to help African children.
- Justina Chen Headley, award-winning author whose debut novel won the 2007 Asian Pacific American Award for Literature. She ties community service to every book she publishes and co-founded *readergirlz*, the foremost international book community for teens.

Justina says of Hannah: "Hannah could have stepped out of my newest novel, *Girl Overboard*, not because she's a snowboarder, but because she found her power through community service."

Hannah Teter, who donated all of her Olympic-related profits to World Vision, spends much of her off-hill time rallying support and funding for various causes. Her maple syrup charity named 'Hannah's Gold' donates all profits to children in need in Africa. Hannah truly embodies the spirit of giving back and was thrilled to take part in the Positive Turn Girl Overboard tour and help promote the Go Overboard Challenge Grant.

"I'm really excited to go on the tour with Justina to inspire the youth of today to get involved in a cause they're passionate about," said Hannah Teter, Burton Global Team rider and Olympic gold medalist. "I want to challenge young people to create changes they believe in and that will make a difference."

Additional information about the event can be found at the following websites:

<http://www.burton.com/gobsite/BookTour.aspx>

<http://www.snowboard-revolution.com/news/Burton-Kicks-Off-Girl-Overboard-Challenge-Grant-and-Book-Tour.html>

Press is invited to attend the event which will take place April 2nd at 9am. Please contact Sue Sanford at sue.sanford@tbc.org.

About Community Service at The Bear Creek School

At Bear Creek, we are committed to enlarging our student's worldview – and by extension their role in it. We seek opportunities to encourage our students to seek experiences that impact life outside of ourselves. Community Service Day is one more opportunity to cultivate a growing awareness that translates into action and attitude. We are called to make a difference by reaching beyond the comforts of our self-defined daily routine and bring to life that part of us that longs to confirm value in others. That is at the heart and soul of what it means to truly be "in community."

About The Bear Creek School

The Bear Creek School, a leader in classical education for Grades K-12 in the Pacific Northwest, offers a rigorous college preparatory curriculum from a Christian worldview. The Bear Creek School challenges students to reach their intellectual, emotional and spiritual potential through academics, WIAA athletics, fine arts, community service programs and many other educational and social activities. The Bear Creek School's curriculum includes AP and Honors classes in its upper school program. Founded in 1988, the school serves students from the greater Eastside and is housed on two campuses. The Redmond Campus on Union Hill serves K- 12 students and the Valley Campus, also in Redmond, serves K - 6 students. The Bear Creek School is accredited by the Northwest Association of Schools, Colleges and Universities and the Pacific Northwest Association of Independent Schools.

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