



# NEWS RELEASE

News from Orange County Public Schools

## **Orange County Schools Kick Off Inaugural Fall Spruce-Up** *Students and volunteers turn out to tidy up community schools*

October 27, 2012 -- Students, teachers, parents and community volunteers are pitching in to tidy up 25 campuses in the Orange County Public School district's Fall Spruce-Up. Most schools are taking Friday, October 26 and Saturday, October 27 to mulch, weed, prune overgrown bushes and clean pavements.

"This effort demonstrates the pride our students have in their schools," said OCPS Superintendent Barbara Jenkins. "It also demonstrates how teachers, students, and their parents value the facilities paid for by Orange County taxpayers."

The schools participating in this year's Fall Spruce-Up include Apopka ES, Apopka Memorial MS, Apopka HS, Edgewater ES, Lockhart MS, Maxey ES, Meadow Woods ES, Piedmont Lakes MS, Walker MS, Wekiva HS and Windermere ES. Due to scheduling conflicts, another 16 schools either have already completed their campus spruce-ups or will do it in November. These include Citrus ES, Clay Springs ES, Dommerich ES, Fern Creek ES, Frangus ES, Gotha MS, Hidden Oaks ES, Jones HS, Lakeville ES, Lake Whitney ES, Moss Park ES, Pershing ES, Rolling Hills ES, Sunrise ES, Wheatley ES, and Zellwood ES.

"Shrinking budgets have stretched our abilities to maintain school grounds," explained School Board Chairman Bill Sublette. "Our minimal crews are kept busy with the bare essentials of keeping lawns mowed, trees trimmed and buildings structurally safe. These volunteers appreciate their schools and know a little elbow grease can make the difference in how their neighborhood campus looks."

Each year, OCPS Facilities workers maintain 184 campuses. This includes:

- Mowing an equivalent of 4,000 acres of grass
- Keeping 450 miles of irrigation pipe running
- Pruning and arborist work on 38,700 trees
- Trimming and pruning hundreds of thousands of shrubs
- Placing 5500 cubic yards tons of mulch
- Inspecting, testing and repairing fire hydrants and backflow preventers
- Maintaining retention ponds and storm-water systems
- Working with the athletic department to maintain sports fields

While this is the first district-wide Fall Spruce-Up, this coming May will see the school district's first district-wide Spring Clean when other schools around the county will undertake a similar volunteer effort.

Reporters are welcome to visit the following campuses during their Fall Spruce-Up events:

<b>SCHOOL</b>	<b>DATE</b>	<b>TIME</b>	<b>ADDRESS</b>
Edgewater HS	Oct. 26	9a – 11a	3100 Edgewater Dr; Orlando
Windermere ES	Oct. 26	8:30a – 10:30a	11125 Park Ave; Windermere
Apopka ES	Oct. 27	9a – noon	675 Dixie Hwy; Apopka
Apopka Memorial MS	Oct. 27	8:30a – 11:30a	425 N Park Ave; Apopka
Apopka HS	Oct. 27	7:30a – 10a	555 Martin St; Apopka
Lockhart MS	Oct. 27	8a – 10a	3411 Doctor Love Rd; Orlando
Maxey ES	Oct. 27	9a - noon	1100 E Maple St; Winter Garden
Meadow Woods ES	Oct. 27	9a – 11a	500 Rhode Island Woods Cir; Orlando
Piedmont Lakes MS	Oct. 27	8a – noon	2601 Lakeville Rd; Apopka
Walker MS	Oct. 27	8:30a – 10:30a	150 Amidon Ln; Orlando
Wekiva HS	Oct. 27	8a – 10a	2501 N Hiawassee Rd; Apopka

*For more information contact Kathy Putnam in Facilities 407.317.3774*

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