Oct. 16, 2014

**What a difference a few hands and a few hours can make!**

*36 families and 15 staff members dig, pull, slash and polish*

Things grow in the Pacific Northwest! Weeds, grass, moss and flowers. Whether you love them or loath them, sometimes a bit of stretch and bend is all it takes to instill some order and restore calm.

Last month a band of parents, students and staff at Silver Lake Elementary did just that. In only four hours, the grasses were green pools of serenity, the weeds had been put to rest, and walkways were accessible and clear.

“At Silver Lake, we all take pride in creating a warm and welcoming environment for students, families, and staff—focused on learning,” said Principal Jen Lawler. “We invest a great deal of time, energy, and heart in building relationships to personalize the learning inside the school. During the clean-up, our community came together to invest some of that energy and love (and some muscle) to kick off the year with a welcoming environment outside to mirror the environment inside. When walking through the courtyard today, we are reminded of ways in which our community comes together to support our school.”