

TrashMasters!™
Team **Up** to Clean **Up**



Intermediate School Division
Manhattan Borough Winner


Booker T Washington
MS 54

NEW YORK CITY DEPARTMENT OF SANITATION
2004 GOLDEN APPLE AWARDS

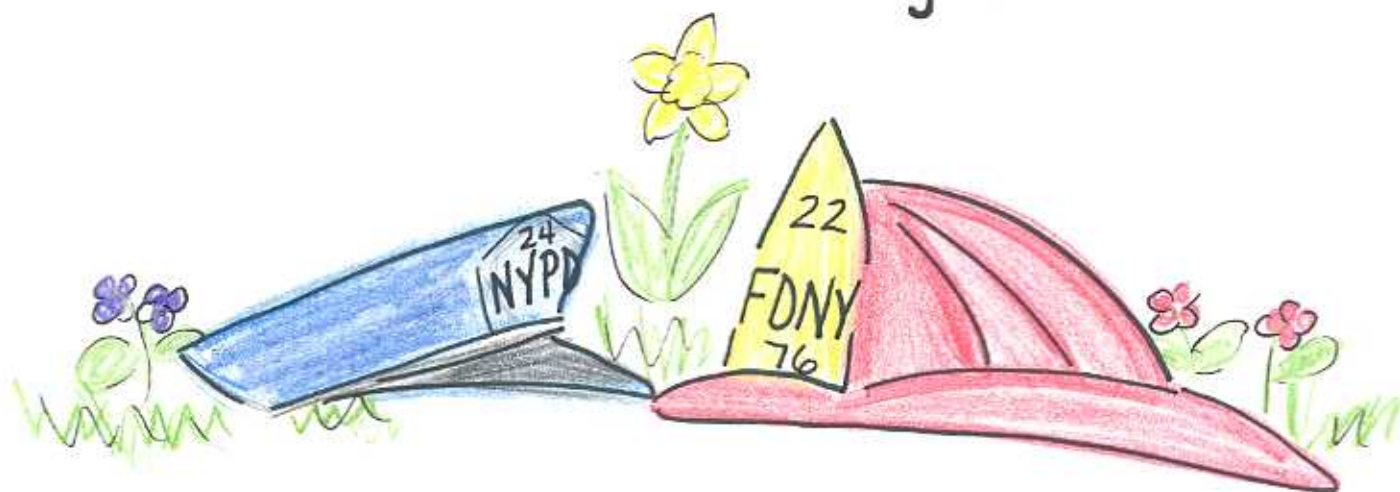
This certificate is awarded with the sincere appreciation and esteem of
a grateful Department and City in recognition of your school's efforts
to help make New York City shine.



City of New York, Michael J. Bloomberg, Mayor
Department of Sanitation, John J. Doherty, Commissioner

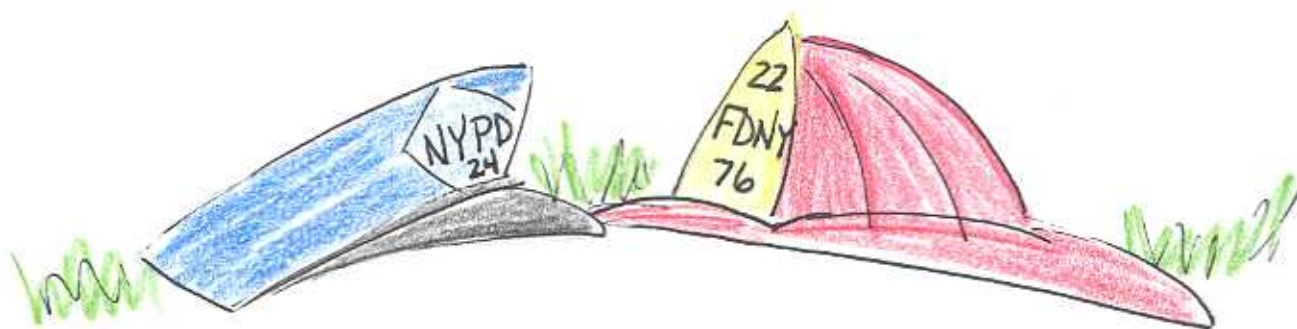

John J. Doherty, Commissioner
June, 2004

Fire Department of New York,
Ladder Company 22 and
Engine Company 76 and the
New York City Police
Department, 24th Precinct
Clean Up and
Beautification Projects



TrashMaster! Team Up to Clean
Up Competition
Class 119 ~ Grade 7
Booker T. Washington Middle School 54
Manhattan, NY 10025
Coordinator: Marie Simeone

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TrashMaster! Team Up to Clean
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Class 119 ~ Grade 7
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Manhattan, NY 10025
Coordinator: Marie Simeone

TrashMasters! Team Up To Clean Up

Contest Name: TrashMasters! Team Up to Clean Up

School Number: Middle School 54

School Name: Booker T. Washington Middle School

District: 3 **Borough:** Manhattan

Grade Division: Middle School

School Address: 103 West 108th Street
New York, New York 10025

Phone: 212-678-2861

Fax: 212-316-0883

Email: mariefe59@yahoo.com

Principal: Lawrence Lynch

Contest Coordinator: Marie Simeone

Name of Participating Students, Classes, and Staff:

Students in Self Contained Special Education Grade 7 Class:

Naya Abraham
Aaron Carson
Noel Colon
Linda De La Cruz
Jefferey Eason
Tamika Edwards
Kevin Figueroa
Rakim Johnson
Tiara Johnson
Desmond Matias
Christopher McCartha
Donte Meredith
Raynaldy Rodriguez
Anairis Soto
Nikita Tuck

Teachers: Marie Simeone
Anne Marie Scullion
Virginia Young

Organizations offering Support:

Citizens Committee, 24th Precinct

Columbus-Amsterdam Business Improvement
District

Home Depot

Plant Shed

New York Trees - City Pruner Program

New York City Parks Department

United States Department of Forestry

**Fire Department of New York,
Ladder Company 22 and Engine Company 76
New York Police Department, 24th Precinct
Clean Up and Beautification Projects**

Background of Project:

On September 11, 2001; all of us were in classrooms around New York City, getting ready for middle school. That beautiful sunny day turned into one of the darkest days of our lives. We couldn't help but be changed as we watched and listened in shock at the events that took place that day.

With the second anniversary of September 11th approaching, we as a class did not want to dwell on the sadness of the day, but instead we wanted to make sure that something good came from it. Since September 11th of 2003, it has been the goal of our class, a self contained special education class of seventh graders, to remember the men and women of our local fire station and police station throughout the year. We wanted to make sure they knew that we appreciated what they did for our local community every day of the year not just when something bad happens. We planned weekly and monthly projects that would bring them cheer and show our appreciation for the bravery and courage they show daily.

Ladder Company 22 and Engine Company 76 of the Fire Department of New York and the 24th Precinct of the New York Police Department are located on West 100th Street on the Upper Westside of Manhattan, just blocks away from our school, Booker T. Washington Middle School 54. They are bordered to the north by the Frederick Douglas Housing Projects, Westside Alternative High School, a City Park; and to the south by C Town Supermarket, Department of Health, and the Bloomingdale Branch of the New York Public Library. This section of West 100th Street is used by many people as they travel from Central Park to Broadway. On our many trips to the Fire Station and Police Station, we noticed all the trash and garbage in front of the buildings and around the sides. It seemed to us that no one really cared about the men and women who worked and in the case of the Fire Department, who lived there. After reading a few articles in the New York Post in January of 2004 that talked about a possible environmental contamination at the Fire Station and the Police Station on West 100th, we decided as a class to hold a Spring Clean Up. We wanted to really clean up the area around the buildings and also to make it look nicer by planting a garden in front of the Police Station and putting pots of flowers around the Fire Station.

Summary:

We, the members of Class 119, were responsible for cleaning up the areas surrounding the Police Station and the Fire Station(side and back areas). This involved removing large debris that needed to be picked up by Sanitation or the Parks Department, picking up trash, and raking and picking up dead leaves. We also planted the garden in front of the Police Station which involved having the trees pruned, removing dead and overgrown bushes, amending the soil, planting spring flowering plants and perennials, mulching the garden area and putting in an iron fence to protect the garden. In addition, we purchased large flower pots and planters which we planted with flowers in an effort to beautify the Fire Station for the firefighters. We raised the money and purchased the materials for all the projects. We also received donations of plants, bulbs, and tools. We spent time during and after school, and over our Spring vacation to complete this project.

Planning:

We first surveyed the area and realized that we needed to take care of the immediate problem of the 2 trees in front of the Police Station that had dead wood. We contacted Peter Arnsted of the Columbus-Amsterdam Business Improvement District who has been trained as a New York City tree pruner. He showed us what it takes to prune a tree and he helped us prune these 2 trees. We also talked to him about 2 bushes in this space. One appeared to be dead from all the salt used on the sidewalk during the winter. The other bush had been left for too long. He told us it would be a good idea to remove them.

We spent time measuring the length and width of the garden space in front of the Police Station. We took measurements of the open spaces next to the Fire Station. Back at school, we calculated the perimeter and area of the garden space. We knew this would come in handy when we figured out how much fencing we would need to purchase and how much topsoil and mulch we would need to get to cover this area. We prepared a scaled drawing of the garden and drew up different plans for what kinds of plants and things we wanted to see go in the garden. We investigated the different size flower pots available and figured out the largest size pot that would fit in the different spaces.

Using monies that we raised, we purchased materials that we would need at Home Depot and Plant Shed. We then planned out our work schedule. We knew we would need to spend part of the school day, after school, and even part of our Spring vacation to complete all the work.

Beautification:

We removed the two bushes from in front of the Police Station. We cut them down and then dug out the roots. We raked up all the garbage and dead leaves. On the next day, we turned over the soil in that space and worked top soil, compost and humus into it. We were ready to plant. We had decided to put in spring flowering bulbs and perennials that would flower in late spring, summer, and fall. We planted hyacinths, crocuses, daffodils, tulips, scilla, snowdrops, pansies, chrysanthemums, irises, hostas, bleeding heart, columbine, chamomile, lavender, dahlias, wild geraniums, phlox, primrose, dianthus, creeping phlox, day lilies, hydrangeas, azaleas, peonies, heucheras, astilbes, poppies, and campanulas. We then put in iron fencing around three sides to keep people and dogs out. Last, we spread mulch over the entire garden space.

Meanwhile, we were also completing the 6 flowerpots and 1 long planter to go in front of the Fire Station. We first put pebbles or gravel in the bottom of each pot so the water would drain out. We filled each pot with a mixture of topsoil, compost and humus. We then put in bulbs to come up next year, red flowering tulips, and pansies in all the pots. In the planter, we planted mini daffodils and pansies. All the pots were watered.

Clean Up:

We began our clean up by removing the large debris from the sides and back of the building. This included file cabinets, chairs, metal barrels, etc. We carried these out to the street and made arrangements with Sanitation and the Parks Department to pick them up. We then cleaned the side of the Fire Station, including the Frederick Douglas Housing Project parking lot that is right next to the station, and the side of the Police Station. We picked up the trash and raked and picked up all the dead leaves. We carried out many bags of garbage to the sidewalk. We even helped the Parks Department load their garbage truck.

Once we finished the sides of the building, we worked on the back of the building which had a lot of garbage dumped back there. We cleaned out an area by the back door of the Police Station which had a picnic table. Hopefully, now people who work at the Precinct can sit outside on nice days and eat their lunch.

Future Plans:

There is still more large debris in the back of the building (weight equipment, metal drums, coat rack, animal cages, etc). In the future, we would like to work with the two custodians to do a further clean up of this debris and really fix up the back area for the police officers. We also made a discovery while we were cleaning the back of the building. As we raked out the area by the fence, we discovered a flowering quince bush, irises, lilies, and violets growing back there. This has made us think about planting flowers and bushes by this fence which borders a path that leads to Frederick Douglas Housing Project, the City Park, and a public high school. We are also thinking

about extending our garden along the Police Station driveway which runs along the side of the building.

We realize that our TrashMaster! Team Up to Clean Up Project at Ladder Company 22 and Engine Company 76 and the 24th Precinct is just a beginning. We plan on showing these firefighters and police officers and our community just how much we care about them and our environment!

Upcoming Honors:

The students in Class 119 at Booker T. Washington Middle School 54 will be honored for their work in cleaning up and beautifying the Fire and Police Stations on West 100th Street in Manhattan by the Police Captain of the 24th Precinct and the members of its Citizens Committee at their April 27th meeting. They will also be honored at a luncheon by the firefighters of Ladder Company 22 and Engine Company 76 later this month. In addition, this tribute to the New York City firefighters and police officers will be featured on the United States Department of Forestry Living Memorial web site.

Class 119 visits Ladder Company 2 Engine Company 76 & 24th Precinct



Homemade Apple Cake (made with apples
picked on our Apple Picking trip), Jack-o-Lantern
and Halloween
decorations



October 2003



Homemade
Cupcakes
and Holiday
Cakes &
a Christmas
Tree with
decoration



December 2003



Before Photos What a Mess!



West 180th Street - Police and Fire Station



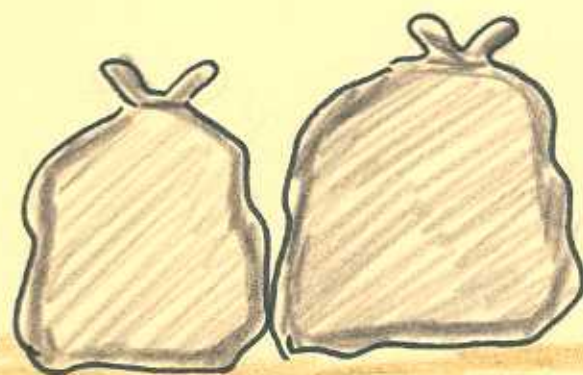


East side of the
Building (next
to the Fire Station)



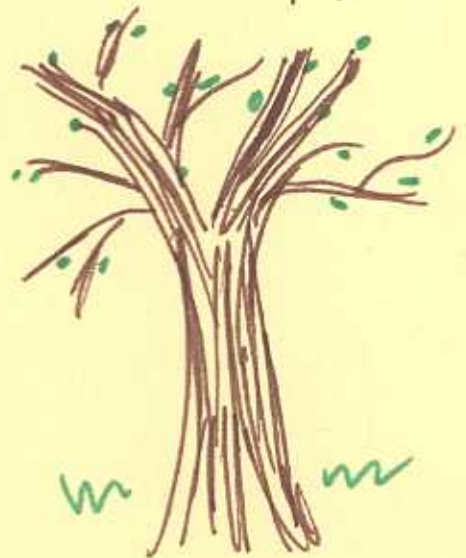


Back of the Building





Peter Arnsted,
Columbus-Amsterdam
Business Improvement
District prunes
the trees for us
(of course with
our help)



Site Plan - Garden Space

Police Dept.

cc

Police Department Building
Roof Overhang

Fire Dept
Battalion
Chief
Garage

190 in.
or
15 ft 10 in.

Memorial Stone



395 in or 32 ft 11 in.

$$\begin{aligned} \text{Perimeter} &= 15 \text{ ft } 10 \text{ in} + 15 \text{ ft } 10 \text{ in} + 32 \text{ ft } 11 \text{ in} + 32 \text{ ft } 11 \text{ in} = 97 \frac{1}{2} \text{ ft} \\ \text{Perimeter (fencing, only 3 sides)} &= 15 \text{ ft } 10 \text{ in} + 32 \text{ ft } 11 \text{ in} + 15 \text{ ft } 10 \text{ in} = 64 \text{ ft } 7 \text{ in} \\ \text{Area} &= 15.83 \text{ ft} \times 32.92 \text{ ft} = 521.12 \text{ sq ft} \end{aligned}$$

Scale
 $\frac{1}{4} \text{ in.} = 1 \text{ ft}$



You have to be strong!



Removing
an
overgrown
bush



Planting
Flowers,



Flowers,



and More
Flowers . . .





Parks Department Pick-Up



We all pitch in to get the garbage cleaned up.



After Photos

The East side
of the Building
(next to the
Fire Station)



All
Cleaned
Up!

Frederick Douglas Housing
Project Parking Lot

After Photos ~ Fire Station

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22 & 76

After Photos ~ Police Station

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Class 119 ~ all smiles
after all their hard work

BTW Class 119, Grade 7



with the final results of their
TrashMasters! Team Up to Clean Up
Project



FDNY-Ladder Company 22, Engine Company 76
24th Precinct - NYPD
West 100th Street in Manhattan

This binder was prepared by
the students and teacher
of Class 119, Booker T.
Washington Middle School 54