

White Plains School District and Beautification Foundation Celebrate Arbor Day 2014

By Pat Casey

The White Plains City School District celebrated Arbor Day 2014 at Eastview Middle School on Friday, April 25.

Facing a rising morning sun on a beautiful spring day Kathy Masterson and Suzanne Evans of the White Plains Beautification Foundation presented three Pink Dogwood trees planted on the school grounds.

One tree was planted in honor of Howard Britton and James P. Masterson and in honor of Julie Mae Britton and Gladys Mae Masterson, parents of Kathy (Britton) Masterson and her husband Joseph Masterson. The other two Pink Dogwoods were gifts from The Care of Trees, which also presented fir tree seedlings for the



Kathy Masterson, Director White Plains Beautification Foundation at the podium with Eastview Chorus and Guitar Club on Arbor Day 2014.

students to take home and plant in honor of Arbor Day.

The Eastview Orchestra, Band, Chorus and Guitar Club played selections with Earth themes.

Department of Public Works Commissioner Joseph Nicoletti presented the Tree City USA flag given to The City of White Plains for 31 years in a row.

Nicoletti explained that White Plains has 13,500 trees all categorized and identified. "After Hurricane Sandy, the city lost many

trees, but has been adding new ones each year since," he said.

White Plains Mayor Thomas Roach, Eastview Middle School Principal Joseph



Amanda Nirenberg reads her poem "Tree Transformation."

Cloherly and New York State Senator George Latimer spoke to the students about the importance of nature and celebrations of spring.

Eastview student Amanda Nirenberg read her poem "Tree Transformation."

Tree Transformation By Amanda Nirenberg

In autumn I am colorful
Blazing orange, yellow and red
And soon when winter comes
My leaves will all be shed

In winter I am bare
Not a leaf in sight
And after a large snowstorm
My branches are covered in white

The spring brings pink flowers
That pop up all around
Until the air gets warmer
And they fall to the ground

In summer I am green
With new leaves galore
Until autumn comes again
And I change once more

The cycle goes forever
Until my time is done
But where I used to stand
There now sprouts a new one



The Eastview Band plays Rocky Mountain Romp by Brian Balmages, conducted by teacher Laura Mazziotti. The tree to the left is one of the newly planted Pink Dogwoods.