



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**Hailey, Idaho:** Syringa Mountain School's population has grown with a new colony of honey bee for its Farm and Garden program. The bees arrived April 29<sup>th</sup> and live on the rooftop of the green Syringa School building off Hwy 75 in bee boxes that were built by Miles Teitge and will be decorated by the 4<sup>th</sup> grade.

Syringa was awarded a grant from Whole Foods back in 2014, as a "Bee Keeping Package" including curriculum materials, education, and classes for the head beekeeper Miles Teitge. Two types of hardy bees, Carniolan and Italian, were purchased from a beekeeping club in Twin Falls ID. "It took some time to get the project rolling and getting trained as a bee keeper; while also in the first 3 years of opening the school- happy to see it all come together" says Miles.

Following Waldorf curriculum, Syringa intends on incorporating the bees into their 4<sup>th</sup> grade "Animal" block and the 3<sup>rd</sup> grade "Life Cycle" block for their studies. Honey bees are quite docile and students will be able to observe safely and through looking lenses being built into the boxes. In addition, the school expects pollination to benefit to the 2,800 sq foot Earth Rise Garden and look forward to some sweet honey in return for their hospitality.

Energy at Syringa abounds this Spring at Earth Rise, the 6<sup>th</sup> grade is constructing a Monarch weigh station with a gazebo; and a new fence is being built to protect the garden, thanks to a generous donations of labor from Lee Gilman and materials from Idaho Lumber.

***About Syringa Mountain School***

*Syringa Mountain School is the first public charter school in Idaho that is guided by the core principles of Waldorf education, joining more than 60 other such schools nation wide, located in Hailey, Idaho. As a K-6 charter school and 100 percent funded by federal and state departments along with donors, Syringa Mountain School is a free public option for families. Programs are robust, multi sensory focused, and student-driven allowing children to develop a lifelong passion for learning. Through the encouragement and modeling of the academic staff, administration and parents, students learn to recognize the importance of becoming hard-working, compassionate citizens that contribute to their communities throughout their lifetime; while preparing them for continuous academic success.*