

Build a Better Classroom:

Roots & Shoots' latest initiative that gets to the root of bullying.

At Jackson, Roots & Shoots works hand in hand with our International Baccalaureate (IB) school goals by developing inquiring, knowledgeable and caring young people

... people who create a better and more peaceful world through a stronger understanding and respect for all. Reinforcing this goal, *Build a Better Classroom* was implemented in 2010 to encourage students to 'Commit to Caring' when it comes to bullying, or treating another student with disrespect. This proactive initiative focuses on kindness, compassion and empathy, while broadening students' awareness of bullying "triggers" that are more specifically based. These include areas such as one's cultural, economic and religious background, to one's gender, physical or mental ability, to more superficial targets like one's weight, clothes preference or hairstyle, for example.

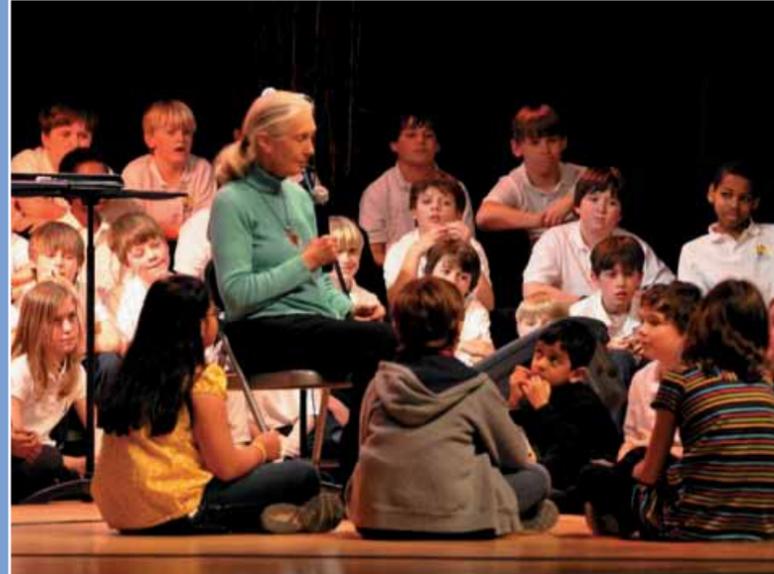
A proven model for engaging youth.

*Only if we understand, can we care;
Only if we care, will we help;
Only if we help, shall all be saved.*

- Jane Goodall, Ph.D., DBE



Backed with an agenda of compelling activities and events, the message is clear: We must take care of each other and we must speak out against bullies. By working together in positive ways and sharing a common vision, we have tremendous power.



Roots make for a firm foundation.

Shoots seem tiny, but can break through brick walls when given sunlight.

Founded in 1991 by Dr. Jane Goodall and a group of Tanzanian students, the Roots & Shoots program is about making positive change happen – for our communities, for animals and for the environment. Now active in 110 countries, the Roots & Shoots network connects youth of all ages who share a desire to create a better world. Young people identify problems in their community, formulate solutions and take action. Through service projects, youth-led campaigns and an interactive web site, Roots & Shoots members are making a difference across the globe.

For more information, visit us at www.rootsandshoots.org.

Jane Goodall's Roots & Shoots program at JACKSON Elementary

A first for the Buckhead community.
A must for all service-minded students.

Jane Goodall's
Roots & Shoots

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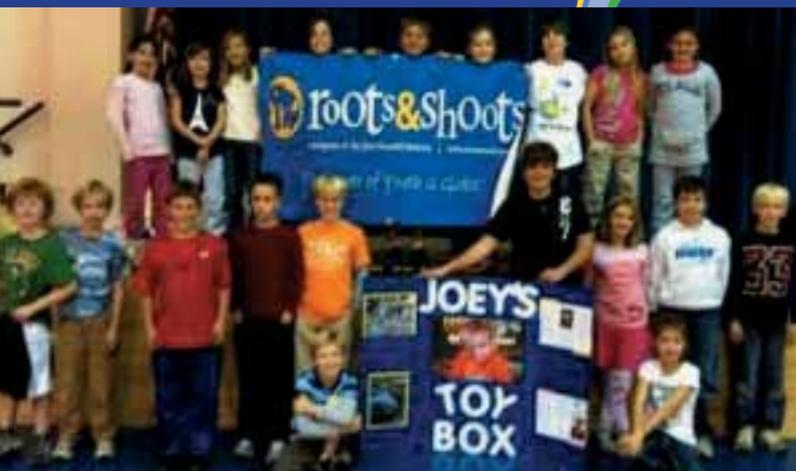
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Jane Goodall's
Roots & Shoots



Since 2006, Jaguars have pounced on this remarkable community-service program.

Jackson's involvement with internationally acclaimed Roots & Shoots began when a proactive group of 4th grade parents chartered the school's first "club" to help develop their children's sense of citizenship and giving back to one's community. They were impressed with the mission of the effort's founder, Dr. Jane Goodall, to introduce students to a hands-on approach in bringing the art of philanthropy to life. Jackson parents realized the many unique opportunities for experiential learning that Roots & Shoots presented, and the effort quickly gained popularity among students and teachers alike. In Atlanta, Jackson was the first school (public or private) to incorporate this organization into its PTA roster. Roots & Shoots is now available to all grade levels at our school (including kindergarten) and affiliation is open to every Jaguar. Growth has also extended outside our campus: Today, Jackson serves as the "go-to" school for other local institutions wanting to start Roots & Shoots, where our model is used as a springboard. Area schools including Marist, Westminster and Morris Brandon have followed in our footsteps – and the list continues to grow.



Big ideas come from little minds.

Roots & Shoots branches out in many ways at Jackson, from after-school events, speakers and activities (both on- and off-site) to campus-wide initiatives to benefit local non-profits and other groups in need. All activities are geared to positively impact specific community segments, such as the environment, the homeless, the elderly, and animals, for example. While parent volunteers oversee each grade's activities, it's the students themselves who develop the ideas and project plans for age-appropriate ventures. The sky's the limit – but there is one rule: no fund raising. Thus, students learn to create solutions based entirely on their actions, and begin to see first-hand how they can affect positive change in the community, as well as in the world.

Our members touch many.

Jackson's events take place in neighborhood parks, animal shelters, senior citizen homes, homeless organizations, and as initiatives organized throughout our school. Some local organizations benefitting from our students' volunteerism and ingenuity include:

- Atlanta Animal Rescue Friends
- Atlanta Community Food Bank
- Atlanta Fire and Rescue – Station 27
- Atlanta Guide Dog Foundation
- Atlanta Humane Society
- Atlanta Preservation Center
- Atlanta Women and Children's Shelter
- Buckhead Christian Ministries
- Chastain Park Conservancy
- Chattahoochee Recreation Center
- Fulton County Animal Shelter
- Peachtree Pines Homeless Shelter
- Ronald McDonald House
- Scottish Rite Hospital and Joey's Toy Box
- Shephard Spinal Center
- Soldiers' Angels
- Sunrise Senior Living
- The Galing Foundation
- The Good Deed Box
- Ties That Matter

Past endeavors initiated by our Roots & Shoots members include:



- Planting trees and shrubs on campus to honor Earth Day
- Collecting books and backpacks for less-fortunate children
- Creating holiday thank-you cards for soldiers in Iraq
- Volunteering in centers for the disabled, homeless and aged with sing-alongs, plays, flower distribution, kitchen and garden cleanup
- Writing notes of encouragement to residents at Shephard Spinal Center
- Cleaning up local neighborhoods hit by floods or hurricanes
- Collecting blankets, toys and food for animals in local shelters
- Reading to children at Ronald McDonald houses
- Donating unused gifts to Joey's Toy Box for children afflicted with cancer at Children's Hospital
- Creating and planting Jackson Gardens in partnership with Jackson GreenThink, our school's eco-friendly PTA effort... and much more

Actions speak louder than words... except maybe hers.

On February 19, 2010, Dr. Jane Goodall paid tribute to Jackson's efforts with a visit few will ever forget. Nearly a thousand students, parents and dignitaries were present for her speech, including the entire Jackson student body, members of the original Roots & Shoots (now attending other public and private schools), area charity directors, as well as the media – all celebrating the good citizenship of our students, and the organization's vision overall. A portrait photo of this historic visit now hangs in her honor within Jackson's Main Campus.

Help the program, and the children, grow.

If you're a parent interested in joining this innovative service program, please contact the Roots & Shoots committee chairs listed in your Jackson Directory. They can also enroll your child as a member. And while there really are no words to describe the personal value this can mean to a student, there are statistics: Research shows that children perform as much as 17% higher on standardized tests when they're involved in philanthropic projects.

Get involved. It's just one more reason why we say, "Now You're Thinking" when it comes to being part of Jackson Elementary.

