

Commitment beyond the classroom

Some teachers may take the summer off, but a true "Fred" is someone whose commitment to their students is not limited by classrooms, calendars or clocks. At Paul Laurence Dunbar, **Wendy Turner** is one of those teachers. As sponsor of PLD's Gay-Straight Alliance, she was been the driving force among our faculty for the Memorial Garden. Originally conceived after the premature death of a Dunbar student, the Garden expanded with the tragic death of another student who was heavily involved in the planning of the garden. Wendy believed it would be a positive way for the students to work through their grief and the parents, family, and friends of the students are integrally involved in the project. Throughout the summer, she has spent almost every Saturday with a hardworking group of volunteers who are helping to shape the Memorial Garden. They shoveled gravel, repaired and painted picnic benches, hauled rocks, and healed hearts. She has also inspired other faculty members, such as Elizabeth Davis, to give up some of their summer Saturdays to help. The work has not been easy and the work is not complete, but Wendy Turner has proven once again why the faculty of Paul Laurence Dunbar is one of the most outstanding in the city.

Submitted By: Kevin Faris and Alicia Henning, Teachers