

Planting a new year



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Chris Fernandes with his son Jacob (left), a member of the Junior Honor Society at Feinstein Middle School, working on sprucing up the school's appearance ahead of the first day of school later this month.

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COVENTRY — Students, parents, teachers and members of the Alan Shawn Feinstein PTSA were busy Monday planting, weeding, spreading mulch and raking out dead roots in an effort to spruce up the front of the middle school for the first day of school, which starts in just a few short weeks.

Jennifer Randall, president of the PTSA, said it's a great way to being the community together and she hopes it continues next year.

Chris Fernandes came with his two sons, Jacob and

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ABOVE: Volunteer parents Jessie Gilbert, Dawn Petrarca and Kerry Adams

LEFT: Volunteer Maureen Duffy pulls out weeds.



Planting for school year spruces up FMS



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Feinstein Middle School Principal Dr. Arthur Lisi pulls tight a tarp to be used for mulch yesterday morning.

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Nathan, who were edging out the grass by the bushes to make way for mulch.

Jacob is in the eighth grade and is a member of the Junior Honor Society.

"I'm taking part because I'm proud to go to school here and I want to show that pride," he said.

"Dr. Lisi put the word out there that this was going on and we've lounged around enough this summer — time to get some work done," he said.

Maureen Duffy, a volunteer parent who has a daughter just starting at the middle school and one who just left, said she enjoys gardening as one of her hobbies so why not get involved as she cleared weeds and removed small

rocks from the soil.

Materials were donated from parents as well as C&A Landscape Materials, and Home Depot also donated a gift card to be used for future purchases.

"It's very important to bring our community, both inside the school and outside, together and when the new students arrive with their parents, it's important that the school look good because even the small steps matter," said Guidance Counselor Lori Lebrune.

Alan Shawn Feinstein Middle School Principal Lisi agreed with the volunteers.

"Part of our vision is to collaborate with the community because we have a great school, with a great community in a great town and we all learn from each other," he said.