Tukwila elementary students have the world at their feet

By Eric Mathison

When students enter Tukwila Elementary School, they have the world at their feet.

In their case, it is a 50-foot wide map of the world, created at the entrance to the school through a unique partnership between college students, grade school pupils and Tukwila residents.

University of Washington students enrolled in the Art in Public Places course, taught by Sharon Sutton and John Young, designed the outdoor public art project.

It features a colored cement stage with a relief map of the world, low grassy hills, benches, patio block tiles, cement block tiger paw prints, an oversized sign post and landscaping.

About 30 undergraduates worked with more than 50 elementary school kids and staff members from Tukwila in designing the $20,000 art installation. Construction began on May 12 and continued with neighborhood work parties on May 19 and 26.

The project was dedicated in ceremonies at the Tukwila school on Tuesday, June 5.

At the dedication assembly, Principal Steve Salisbury described the art work as “gorgeous” and said it resulted from a “team effort, just like in our classrooms and school.”

He urged the elementary pupils to emulate the UW students.

“That’s what we want you to do,” Salisbury declared. “We want you to go to college and come back

– See TUKWILA, page 15