



McNEAR ELEMENTARY SCHOOL LIFE SCIENCE GARDEN

GARDEN CLASSES HAVE BEGUN

Students are coming out to the garden once every other week to experience what is growing and who is crawling. If you are able to volunteer to run a center during one of the garden times below, please contact Ginny Hautau at 778-2396.

K: COHEN & 1/2 GRAY

Tuesday (every other) 9/29 @ 10:45-11:30

K: SHARP & 1/2 GRAY

Wednesday (every other) 10/8 @ 10:45-11:30

SDC 4/5/6: COLUNGA

Wednesday (every) @ 9:40-10:20

3: HEASLET

Thursday (every other) 10/2 @ 12:30-1:10

3: DURKIN

Thursday (every other) 10/2 @ 1:15-1:55

3: SOVEL

Thursday (every other) 10/2 @ 2:00-2:40

2/3: MORELINI

Friday (every other) 10/3 @ 12:30-1:10

2: JOYNER

Friday (every other) 10/3 @ 1:15-1:55

2: BOYCE

Friday (every other) 10/3 @ 2:00-2:40

1: McBROOM

Thursday (every other) 10/9 @ 12:30-1:10

1: MARTIN

Thursday (every other) 10/9 @ 1:15-1:55

1/2: KINCAID

Thursday (every other) 10/9 @ 2:00-2:40

4: NORSTAD

Thursday (every other) 10/10 @ 12:30-1:10

4: ROSE

Thursday (every other) 10/10 @ 1:15-1:55

5: TURKO

Thursday (every other) 10/10 @ 2:00-2:40

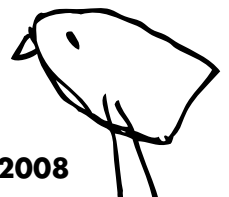
"ROUND THE GARDEN"

You may have noticed that there is a large round chalkboard on the side of the garden shed. This is where we post little tasks that need to be done in the garden – things like weeding, harvesting, dead-heading, watering, training. Most jobs are small and can be done for as little as five minutes here and there. We invite families to join in, classes to come out on off-days, neighbors and community members to walk through and appreciate our garden while lending a hand. Check out the list to see if there is anything you and your little one can do for a few minutes before heading home.

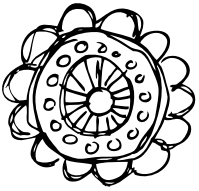
WANDERING & GRAZING

One of our goals for the garden is to invite our entire school community to enjoy the learning experience mother nature provides by way of nourishment. In order for us to introduce an open-ended exploratory experience for all students, we need to have garden docents available during recess times to supervise and eventually provide tasting opportunities for those who wish to pay a visit.

If you'd like to volunteer during recess to greet and guide students through the garden, please call Elizabeth Green at 762-7006.



AUTUMN 2008



GARDEN WORK PARTY & POT LUCK BRUNCH

Saturday, November 15: Join us for an hour or two to spruce up our garden and prep it for the winter.

WHAT'S WITH ALL THE FLOWERS?

Some people have been wondering why we have so many flowers in our EDIBLE garden. Though admittedly we really let the sunflowers take over during the summer, the flowers that remain are serving as companion plants to many of the veggies and herbs in the beds. Some like sunflowers, are simply bug collectors and late season bird feeders while others like marigold and zinnia help repel deer. Companion planting serves as natural pest management, reduces waste and helps create a balanced ecosystem. Experiencing nature's symbiotic relationship first hand is really exciting for young scientists.



DEMPSEY'S DINE & DONATE

Who? You! Your Friends! Your Family!

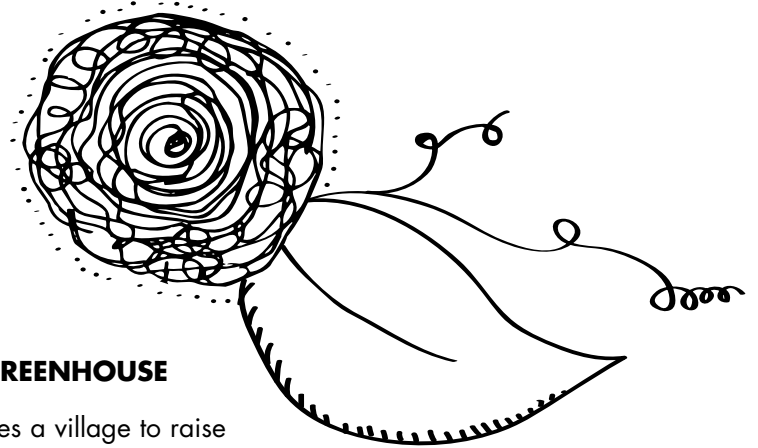
What? Eat and help raise money for the McNear Life Science Garden. Have lunch or dinner. Eat in or take out!

Where? Dempsey's Restaurant

When? Tuesday, October 14
11:30 am to 9:00 pm

How? Bring your flyer.

Why? Dempsey's will donate 15% of their pre-tax sales to the McNear community. This donation will benefit the McNear Elementary School Life Science Garden.



OUR VILLAGE GREENHOUSE

We all know it takes a village to raise a child, but did you also know it takes a village to grow a garden? This is true in the case of our garden. If you can't volunteer to docent in the garden during school hours, perhaps you'd like to start seeds for us at home. We're looking for a handful of families who would like to grow some seasonal starts for our garden as well as for our spring plant sale. Please call Traci di Stephano at 762-6212 if you'd like to lend your green thumb.

COIN BANKS

Coin banks go home on October 13. This collection of change you can spare will be directed toward one of two projects in and around our garden. Your children will get to cast their vote in this election year for either an umbrella and produce stand for us to maintain a small farmer's market with the help of sixth grade students OR for a variety of larger plants to fill the new habitat beds and further study the life-cycle and adaptation of insects.

HARVEST CARNIVAL

Stop by our booth at the McNear Harvest Carnival on October 18. We'll be selling the scarecrows we're making in class with your kids. We'll have harvest produce for your autumn table and prizes for guessing the weight of our giant pumpkin. All proceeds from the day will go to the McNear PTA.

Bring a shovel for yourself and borrow one from the shed for your child to join us as we get our shade trees planted... we'll be working all day and would love for this to be a community effort and learning experience.

THOUGHTS & SUGGESTIONS?

Stop by the outdoor classroom every other Wednesday for discussion about the future of our garden, our plans to expand and reach all students and their families.

