



Garden of Tomorrow
Sunset Mesa Preschool

Date: 9/16/08

To: SMS Preschool Teachers and Garden of Tomorrow Liaisons
From: "Garden Coordinator" Julie Kahn

Hi! Well, what a great first season we've enjoyed in the Garden of Tomorrow, don't you agree? This letter is to tell you about some fall planting and activity opportunities for right now... [Side note: recall that *each teacher has been given a "garden budget" of \$50 per year for Garden project(s)/activity(ies).*]

As for planting, according to the Albuquerque Master Gardeners website, now is the time that we can:

- ☀ Begin planting spring-blooming bulbs; I can help identify areas where we already have bulbs, so as not to dig them up or damage them and to help coordinate colors/types so we continue to have a harmonious garden.
- ☀ Plant pansies and ornamental cole crops (kale, cabbage, etc.); available at local nurseries very soon, if not already.
- ☀ Plant perennials (I've identified an amazing source of FREE plants (pay postage only) that also benefits the disabled: <http://www.freetreesandplants.com>) and seeds of hardy annuals (we have some appropriate ones on hand that were part of one of our grants this past year). Please touch base re perennial plantings—again, to help maintain harmony and appropriate plantings in the garden.
- ☀ Plant cool-weather vegetables in a protected area (since we don't yet have a green house or a cold frame) to give us an early winter harvest and a head start for spring: lettuce, spinach, radishes, carrots, onions, broccoli, and snow peas are good candidates. We have seeds for all but spinach, onions, and snow peas (I will look for sources and ask that if you are interested in any of these, that you do the same).

As for keeping track of it all, you have probably noticed the wonderful, changeable map of the Garden that has been posted in the hallway (near the Garden door) for all to see. This was done by parent volunteer and Garden Liaison Sandy Lilly.

Also, here are some fun craft & other activity ideas (I'm sure you have many of your own, as well!):

- ☀ Clay flower, bug or other garden-themed simple necklaces.
- ☀ Gather & package "Garden of Tomorrow" seeds (I have a sample seed tag that I made up for gardening class students to color and Target has some great little cellophane bags in their gift wrap area).
- ☀ Mini wreaths (willow type from craft stores) decorated (glued initially by the children and followed up later with a glue gun by teacher) with dried flowers, leaves, little gourds, etc. from the garden.
- ☀ Little "My Garden" signs (decorated by the children).
- ☀ Composting, worm farming
- ☀ Bird-feeding (seeds and Hummingbird nectar)
- ☀ Deadheading flowers (in the raised beds, walled planters, and along fence)

You might also choose to cook something from your class's harvest from the Garden. Examples: herbed vinegars; pesto sauces; pole beans; zucchini bread; cookies, fritters, and pancakes. Mmmmm.

Please keep in mind the potential for your classes to give some of their harvested items, handmade crafts, etc. to the Garden of Tomorrow charitable Farmers Markets. Just let me and/or Mary Helen know if you plan on supporting the Markets in this way and what we may plan on your class contributing. Upcoming Farmers Markets are scheduled for Wednesday, 9/17 (2:45-3:15) and Thursday, 9/25 at the Fall Get-Together.

As always, the Volunteer Garden Committee appreciates how you help the children learn to keep the Garden neat and tidy and to respect the plantings and plant markers. To that end, please make use of the "check-off" board located in the Garden kids shed.

Also, thank you to all of the parents who volunteered to be the class Garden Liaisons; they are as follows:

Clark	Susanne McKinnen	firestarter_74@hotmail.com	720-9072
	Sandy Lilly	sandralilly@comcast.net	292-5425
Fowler	Bridget Via	viazoo@aol.com	884-2713
Henderson	Amy Talbott Van Kesteren	vk@gobrainstorm.net	275-1537
Jaramillo	Emily Villegas (MWF)	villegasre@hotmail.com	345-1363
	Jane Depper (TR)	mdepper@comcast.net	797-5881
Larsen	Tamera Shepherd	tamerashep@gmail.com	544-1043
Long	Kelly Caperton	kcaperton@mac.com	821-9119
Romano	Celeste Miller	xcelentmil22@hotmail.com	299-0303
Shoemaker	Joy Allen	joysalon@comcast.net	310-0554
	Bruce Budagher	bbudagher@data-cell.com	858-4447
	Leon Deprest	leonkim@pol.net	244-0078

The Garden Liaisons can help teachers create lists of needed materials (note that we will already have certain staples on hand) and with shopping, or find another parent who can. They can also help you with your garden-related crafts and other activities and, if desired, help prepare and package any items you would like to feature in our Farmers Markets. Finally, to help keep the Garden organized and harmonious, the Liaisons will also help communicate your planting plans.

Teachers and Liaisons can contact the Garden Coordinators (we hope to have another one, soon!) with questions, etc.: Julie Kahn (Julie.Kahn@comcast.net; 459.6570 (C); 881.9840 (H)). And don't forget about a wonderful web resource: www.kidsgardening.org. This site has great ideas for teachers, ways to collaborate with fellow school gardeners, offers free subscriptions to Kids Gardening News, etc. We also have access (as 2008 Youth Garden Grant recipients) to online gardening and botany courses and a 10% discount in the online Gardening with Kids store.

Finally, we will be scheduling a "Fall Garden Workshop" for parents and teachers, as well as a "Fall All-Hands" work session to clean up the garden and prepare it for our fall plantings, as well as a great spring '09! News and dates on those events soon to follow.

Happy gardening to you and your "little shoots."