



Gecko Garden Update

February 2007

We can change the world with our own two hands.

- Jack Johnson

Fertilizer

I have provided 100 pounds of organic fertilizer for all classes to use in the garden. It is in a wheelbarrow next to the shed under a white tarp. If you have not already planted, I recommend mixing the fertilizer in the soil and water thoroughly prior to planting seeds. If you have already planted seeds, you can still add it. Follow direction on the bag. Most beds are approximately 40sq. feet.

Due to the high cost of buying organic fertilizer and not wanting to subject students in back bungalows to a constant smell of steer manure I will be putting a compost collection bin in the lunch arbor. This will not only benefit our school and garden but can provide a valuable environmental lesson for students. On the following page is a copy of the sign that will be posted in the lunch arbor. If you have a free moment in class to familiarize your students with compost and what can be placed in the bin that would be very helpful. I will deliver the collected scraps to the composting bins in the garden. If classes would like to be involved, buy all means let me know.

Garden Signs

There are some blank signs in the shed - feel free to decorate these for your beds.

Funding

Carrie Banks Spillane is working with Mr. McGirr to file a noncompetitive grant to acquire \$2500 from the state earmarked for school gardens. The funds should be available to us by the end of the year and can be applied toward equipment, supplies and professional development. Let us know your suggestions.

Jr. Master Gardener Program

A Jr. Master Gardener (JMG) program will be available to 2nd-5th graders in the next round of TKC. The program promotes a love of gardening, develops an appreciation for the environment, and cultivates the mind. JMG encourages youths to be of service to others and to make a positive contribution to their community. They will learn how to conserve our natural resources and make knowledgeable decisions about the environment. To learn more visit: <http://www.jmgkids.us/>

Thank you

Contact Information

Team Leader/Financial Coordinator: Carrie Banks Spillane (cspillane@cox.net)

Education Coordinator: Shirley Demer (sdemer@cox.net)

Site Coordinator: Paul Bowers (pmb@pmbowers.com)

Recruitment: Tracey McNeil (mcneils3@cox.net)

Gecko Garden

COMPOST

YES

Vegetables

Fruit

Coffee Grounds

Flowers

Plants

NO

Milk

Cheese

Paper

Plastic

Foil

Oil/Fat

Bread

Meat

