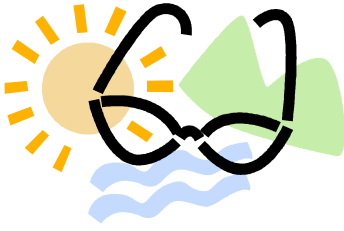
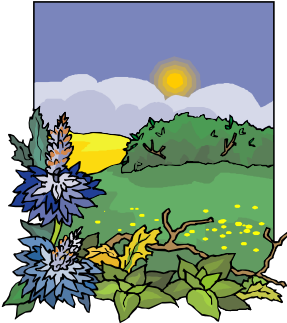


St. Paul's Children's Garden Newsletter



Spring/Summer 2010



Easy, Breezy Summer Gardening Night

Mark your calendars for

July 22nd

when we will meet on from

6:30 until dusk

to do some light gardening jobs while we talk and enjoy one another's company. Bring your garden gloves and your favorite snacks or beverage.

No need to RSVP!

Hope to see you there!

Garden Ambassadors Wanted in Fall!!

Every fall, St. Paul's Pre-School organizes a parent visitation day.

This is a great opportunity for recruiting parent involvement and to get your 2 hours of service completed EARLY!

We are looking for 3-4 volunteers to be stationed at the garden during the September visitation days. These volunteers will serve as "ambassadors" to the garden by directing parents to the garden and providing information about how our special garden contributes to the early development of our children, what being on the garden committee is all about, garden parties, garden fund-raising, and other fun and educational information about the garden. Information will be provided to you.

Please contact Joyce Jones by end of the school year to volunteer.



Thank you Volunteers!



THANK YOU to all who have volunteered this year to ensure the beauty and vitality of our Garden! This includes all of our faithful Dad's Club Volunteers, Watering Family Volunteers, Fairy House Contributors, Party Planners and Volunteers, Painters of the Bug Maze Mural, Supporters of our Perennials Program, Garden Committee members, Garden Classroom Liaisons, Teachers, and last but not least Nancy Wimer, and our wonderful newsletter editor, Mary Adzich.

Without your involvement, our garden would not be the special place that it is.

Every bit of effort put in counts and does not go unnoticed or unappreciated!

THANK YOU!

Join Next Year's Garden Committee!

You don't need a green thumb to join St. Paul's Children's Garden Committee for next year!! The 2010-2011 school year is just weeks away, and a committee comprised of both past and new members will be planning all things related to the Garden: activities, events, design, landscaping, maintenance, publicity, fundraising and promoting overall enjoyment of our great resource! Bring whatever talent you may have, or just show up for some fun with our Garden parents!

Some of the opportunities include:

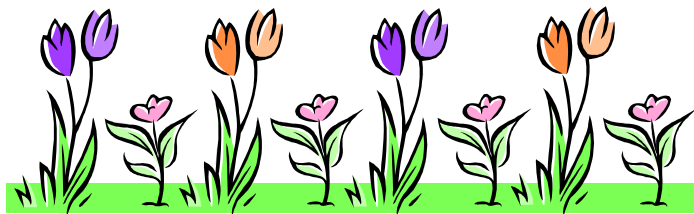
- Garden Chair
- Watering schedule planner/contact person
- Newsletter Contributor
- Party Planners
- Publicity
- Fundraising
- Secretary (taking meeting notes)
- Garden Ambassadors (ensuring the beauty and vitality of the garden and encouraging a safe environment for the students)

Duties include as little or as much as you want to contribute - we typically hold an open, friendly & informal monthly meeting on the 2nd Thursday of each month at 10:30 am in the garden with our school director, Mrs. Jones. Your children are welcome too!

Please contact Jennifer Wierks at jaws2@cox.net to express interest in being part of the Garden Committee for 2010-2011 school year.

Come & Enjoy

Please visit our garden often over the summer. Bring your lunches or dinners, sit out on the swing, enjoy the beauty that is our St. Paul's Children's Garden!



Dad's Club Thanks



So many dads helped throughout the year to maintain our garden and we are so grateful to all of you. Our garden serves as an amazing laboratory for your children to explore and gain knowledge from. It is unique throughout our community and even educators within the county ask me if we are, "That preschool that has the great garden?" So we thank you again. Many of you are 'graduating' from St. Paul's this year and you will be missed. We will be holding Dad's Clubs throughout the summer (see dates below). Please come out and help us maintain the integrity and quality of our gardens during July and August. WE CANNOT DO THIS WITHOUT YOU!

Thanks to the following dads and families: Barrett, Boureston, Bowen, Bredfelder, Cass, Curry, Fergin, Goodemote, Haas, Harris, Heller, Hill, Hines, Hurt, Kerr, Mier, Miller, Murrieta, himabuku, Shortall, Sullivan and Widen.

Please forgive us if we missed you

Summer Dad's Club Dates:
(7:30 a.m. – 8:30 a.m.)

Saturday, July 10th
Saturday, August 14th

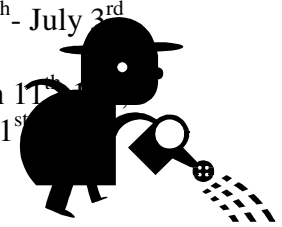
Watering Volunteers

June: Sarah Jarrell 6th-12th, Mindy Gaglia 13th-19th,
Margaret Choe 20th – 26th, Lindsay Bramel 27th- July 2nd

July: Marianne Widen 4th- 10th, Kari Doelman 11th-
April Hancock 18th-24th, Kelley Barrett 25th- 31st

August: Vanessa Aguilar 1st-7th

WE STILL NEED HELP IN AUGUST. Contact Joyce



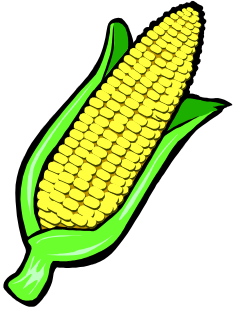
Plant a Food Garden

Excerpted from Marueen Gilmer
www.moplants.com/blog

- **Find a place in the sun.** Even a tiny patch of earth can hold 1 tomato plant and squash at maturity, each capable of significant harvest. Sun is essential to growth, with critical direct exposure from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.
 - **Dig up the soil.** Use a shovel to turn the soil. Turn every inch, and then chop the clods up into smaller, manageable pieces.
 - **Add manure or compost.** For a 5-by-5 spot, use two to three bags of composted steer manure. Spread it evenly over the surface, and then turn the area again to work in the manure. Rake it into a smooth, level surface.
 - **Plant seedlings.** The most treasured crops are tomatoes because homegrown tastes so much better than store-bought. Place tomato plants in a deep hole so they root all along the stem. Stick a few squash seeds in the ground wherever there is open space. Then sow a quick crop of radishes over the rest of the ground.
 - **Water well.** Use an ordinary diffuser nozzle on the end of the hose to flood the new seedlings and saturate the areas where seeds are planted. Do this each day it doesn't rain.
- As you check the plants each day, kids will learn to do the same, but don't push them. They'll follow the lead of parental interest. Don't despair if they become distracted during the intermediate phase of vegetative growth. They'll be back when tomatoes or squash form and picking time is nigh.
- The journey of a 1000 miles begins with first step, and that's one taken by the parents, not the kids. They'll hop on the parental wagon as it rolls, and some day, they'll know enough to hitch up their own.

Recipe Corner Fresh Corn Salad

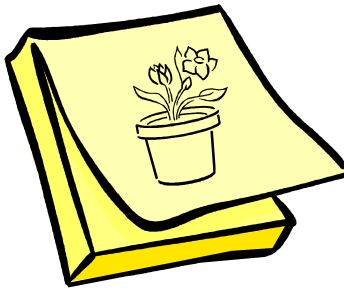
From Barefoot Contessa



- 5 Ears corn, shucked
- 1/2 cup small-diced red onion
- 3 Tablespoons cider vinegar
- 3 Tablespoons good olive oil
- 1/2 teaspoon kosher salt
- 1/2 teaspoon freshly ground black pepper
- 1/2 cup fresh basil leaves

In a large pot of boiling salted water, cook the corn for 3 minutes until the starchiness is just gone. Drain and immerse it in ice water to stop the cooking and to set the color. When the corn is cool, cut the kernels off the cob, cutting close to the cob.

Toss the kernels in a large bowl with the red onions, vinegar, olive oil, salt, and pepper. Just before serving, toss in the fresh basil. Taste for seasonings and serve cold or at room temperature.



Notes from the Garden

by Nancy Wimer

We've had a lot of fun using our five senses and learning about patience and persistence in the garden this year. Our garden has been quite prolific. Children have had a variety of experiences with the life cycle of plants, from seeds and seedlings to bulbs, annuals perennials, flowers, vegetables, tubers and succulent plants.

I hope you have had an opportunity to see all the different colors and variety of plants that have been growing in our garden. We have released butterflies, ladybugs, found roly poly bugs and talked about insect habitats.

The favorite vegetables of the year were the sugar snap peas that grow very easily and could readily be planted in your own home garden. Another big hit with the children were picking and tasting the loquats, apples and pomegranates as well as the blackberries. The children are always willing to try new foods and explore different taste and textures especially when they have planted them themselves. Our banana tree produced bananas which were also considered quite tasty. The POD 3 lemon tree is still taking hold. We hope to make some lemonade next year! Another 'ah' moment was when the children measured and compared the sizes of the giant sunflowers.

The biggest highlight of the garden this year has definitely been the fairy houses. The children have taken a keen interest and are very proud of their family's creations. Imaginative stories abound as the children shared their ideas about attracting fairies and gnomes to our "Enchanted Village." What a magical time.

When you (hopefully) visit the garden over the summer feel free to harvest the ripened vegetables and fruits located in the middle Prayer Garden section.

Thank you for sharing the seasons in the garden!