

## Square Foot Garden Meeting

July 7, 2015

Present: Anna Spaulding, Bob Hamilton, Brenda Eaves

Kindergarten - Grade 3 will be growing inside the greenhouse in beds that are 2 by 6 feet. Though they will fit in one section of the greenhouse when all rolled together in a tight block, the project will require nearly one half of the greenhouse so that students can tend and care for their plants. This will also provide space for writing, measuring, drawing, etc. ...

There will be ample space remaining (nearly 2/3 of the total space) in the greenhouse for classroom/grade level growing projects and want to make sure that everyone feels welcome and able to use the greenhouse.

Kindergarten and Grade 2 will be growing in the fall.  
Grade 1 and Grade 3 will be growing in the spring.

Grade 6 intends to use the greenhouse in the fall as well to develop scientific observation skills.

Grade 4 - Grade 7 will be growing outside in the garden in beds that are 4 by 12. Each bed will be surrounded by a grass walkway/border and students will have a 2' by 2' area to grow in.

Grade 4 and Grade 6 will be growing in the spring.

We did not hear from grade 5. Wendy was going to speak to upper grades. We anticipate grades 5 and 7 will be growing in the fall.

Grade 4 will use space in the greenhouse in spring as well to grow both flower and vegetable sets to donate to (plant in?) the Star Island gardens when they travel out there in spring.

Pre-K will plant sunflowers around the border of the outside garden.  
Grade 8 will grow tomatoes in plastic buckets.

Here's what we thought might be grown at each grade giving consideration to likely temperatures, light and variety of growing experiences through the grades.

Fall Planting		
	Greenhouse	Garden
Kindergarten	carrots	
Grade 2	spinach and beans*	
Grade 5		radishes and bok choy
Grade 7		beet greens and chard

Spring Planting		
Grade 1	mescaline mix (lettuces)	
Grade 3	kale, broccoli, endive	
Grade 4		
Grade 6		broccoli, cabbage, brussel sprouts
Pre-K		sunflowers (and other annuals as desired)
Grade 8	tomatoes in individual buckets to take home at the end of school	

\* Grade 2 wants to plant as part of their life cycle unit. They requested peas and beans. It will likely be too hot for peas at the start of the year and lighting could become a problem not giving the plants enough time to fruit. Spinach will grow quickly and will go to seed so students can see the whole process. Bush beans will grow and may have enough time to fruit - though we do not think the beans will grow large enough to be picked. (Though who knows for sure, so it's worth a try and we have grow lights for the greenhouse.)

Paula Fields would like herbs for the kitchen. Some that are in the greenhouse presently are perennial. Should they be planted outside? We need to find out what she would use the most of.

When the 7th graders presented their project to the school board one of their suggestions of a possibility for next year was growing herbs. We should see if that is going to happen.

In organizing this group Bob has suggested that at least one teacher from each grade level meet on the first Tuesday of each month at 3pm. His idea is that this group will support each other and ensure that the growing project flourishes. This meeting is one week before the Stewards meeting so any issues or needs can be noted right away, brought to the Stewards and dealt with.

So far Kindergarten - Anna Spaulding, Grade 1 - Tana Gustafson, Grade 2 - Lindsay Lewis, Grade 3 - Brenda Eaves, Grade 4 - Mark McFarlin, and Grade 6 - Wendy Crowley have agreed to be part of this group for the upcoming year. Bob said he is committed for as long as he is useful. :)

Bob is organizing a group to complete building/tilling the remaining outdoor beds on July 18 from 8:45 - noon. He'd be glad for help.

The next Square Foot meeting is August 4. This will be the time to make certain that all supplies are ready for fall growing because it will need to begin right away so that students are able to eat what they sow.