

## *The Square Foot Gardening Project*

The goals of this project are simple, yet important:

- We want all of our students to know and experience the science involved with growing. Every student will have the opportunity of growing from seed to harvest each year.
- We want all of our students to understand and experience the health and nutritional benefits of balanced and varied diets. Plant based diets are the most healthful. We know that children who grow their own vegetables are more likely to eat them.



We are in the third year of this project. Every student has planted in the greenhouse and/or the school garden at least once a year and has met with varied success. Fifth grade is harvesting the garden this week and will have the beds ready for planting next week. The greenhouse beds are ready for K and 2<sup>nd</sup> grade.

Here is what we have grown throughout the grades. We continue to experiment with crops and encourage grades to explore different options. Likely temperatures and light availability affect plant growth so we continue to learn which seeds and plant varieties will thrive.

<b><i>Fall Planting</i></b>		
	Greenhouse	Garden
Kindergarten	carrots	
Grade 2	beans	
Grade 5		radishes, spinach, kale and chard
Grade 7		Radishes, broccoli, escarole and spinach
<b><i>Spring Planting</i></b>		
Grade 1	beets	
Grade 3	kale, broccoli, endive	
Grade 4		onions, peppers, broccoli and potatoes
Grade 6		kale, cabbage – red and green, and potatoes
Pre-K		Zinnias and gourds
Grade 8	Heirloom tomatoes in individual buckets to take home at the end of school	

We continue to anticipate surprises and missteps along the way. Naturally our plans will evolve as we encounter them. It is exciting to share a project across the entire school community. We hope to build on this potential. Once we begin growing, the possibilities seem endless - herb gardens, giant pumpkins, popcorn, historical gardens and heirloom seeds, butterfly gardens, dye gardens...