

Lindsay Park Elementary School

Garden Club

First Planning Meeting – March 8, 2023

Where are we starting?

- Grade 3's have had a science and plant fair over the past.
- In 2015, PAC used money to build garden, raised beds and chain link fencing.
- In 2018, there was a heating system installed in the green house which allows us to have ventilation and water in the green house.
- There is a Bulbs for Kids program that has provided the school with 300 bulbs around the school.
- We have a number of other gardens around the school including the Heart Garden near the flagpoles with native species, and Outdoor Classroom.

Why do you want to be involved?

- Themes: community, connection, health, environmentalism, social/emotional benefits, learning, Indigenous ways of knowing.
- Parent comment: We had a garden in our last community, our kids are in the school, and this is a way we can contribute. Learning more about gardening is also motivating.
- Parent comment: I enjoy gardening and I love experimenting with it. Being part of the community and learning from others is exciting. I hope it is a way to connect my child with the school throughout the summer.
- Parent comment: I would like to see the space used as an educational tool and partnerships with other organizations such as growing starts in the greenhouse for other gardens, or connections with the Food Recovery Depot. Bringing things together is a goal.
- Parent comment: Connecting PAC with the garden enhancement efforts.
- Parent comment: Excited to learn and create opportunities for my child.
- Parent comment: Children being connected to the earth and knowing where food comes from is important. There are social emotional benefits in the learning process for kids.
- Parent comment: Learning more about our food, and that we can take care of kids by making sure they are fed. Food can also connect people.

What do YOU want to do?

- There are School Garden grants that may be helpful. One grant has an October deadline.

Where to next?

- We have some opportunities to develop the garden. Some ideas include:
 - Fencing: Increasing the size of the fenced area to have more raised beds that make it easier for classes to access the space. This is the largest expense and the work would be contracted by SD6.
 - Irrigation: Connecting to irrigation in the field to provide water in the fenced area. SD6 will complete this work.

- Raised beds: We could look for donations (for wood and soil) and volunteers to build and fill the beds and this work could be done in advance of the fencing which could make it easier to fill the beds using donated equipment.
- Ground-based garden beds: having some gardening in the ground has some benefits.
- Monthly work bee for the garden to make it easy to show up. This work may need to be completed on a weekly basis.
- Shade sails and picnic table: With warm conditions it could be helpful to plan for shade and seating sometime in the future.

Next meeting date:

- April 12, 2023 from 5:00-6:00pm in the LPES library