

**Garden group meeting**  
Ginny, Jenifer, Melinda

9 am, Friday, Sept. 4, 2009  
San Francisco St. Bakery

Topics discussed:

1. Jobs for interns
2. Vandalism in Dreams garden
3. Fall Love Your School Yard Day
4. Publicity
5. Responsibilities
6. Finances

## **1. JOBS FOR INTERNS**

### ***Community members***

Melinda has talked with the parent of a 1<sup>st</sup> grader who is closely affiliated with a church where some members must complete community service hours. These people could work on projects that do not directly involve the students, such as:

- Weeding and mulching the WaterWise garden
- Mulching around the school fence line.

### ***College students***

Create signs to be laminated and mounted on permanent pedestals to protect beds in the Dreams garden where we are growing food for the food bank. Create a visual barrier so anyone entering this area can't help but encounter one of these signs. Explain that the foods in these beds are being grown by the students for the food bank, and invite people to poke around the other beds where the students are growing food for themselves and the community.

### ***Fifth graders***

Give them leadership roles in planting and harvesting crops with students. This will get them out of their classes (which should be a good incentive) and cultivates a new set of Roosevelt garden stewards each year, which hopefully will reduce the amount of vandalism we're seeing in the food gardens. Reward them at the end of the year with a special trip or treat.

*Will require parent involvement to organize and be on hand if help is needed.*

### ***Students at large***

Weekly garden club, so students can tend the beds. Provide lemonade as incentive?

*Will require parent involvement to organize and be on hand if help is needed.*

## **2. VANDALISM IN THE DREAMS GARDEN**

During the past 10 days, someone picked and ruined the eggplant, artichoke and other vegetables. To avoid this in the future, Jenifer suggesting grouping all of the beds where we are growing crops for the food bank close to the shed, and circling these beds with lots of signs stating that students are using these beds to grow crops for the food bank. The beds further from the shed can be designated for student and neighborhood grazing.

We might go so far as painting the rim of each bed: red = STOP! This bed is dedicated to the food bank! and green = go ahead and try some.

## **LOVE YOUR SCHOOL YARD DAY**

We discussed the benefits of moving this event from November to late September or October. Need to coordinate with the Harvest Festival planners, and perhaps have our event on the morning of the festival.

We'd also like to have a Friday afternoon work party in late September to:

- Clear out planting beds
- Plant a cover crop (like red clover)
- Plant any experimental crops (in Bed 1)

## **PUBLICITY**

### ***Flyers for Monday folders***

Anne F's lovely congratulations poster with info about the after-school work party and LYSYD on back should go out in Monday, Sept 14 or Sept. 21.

- **Anne F.**, we all love your poster and have received permission from nearly all parents. Ginny suggested replacing any photo for which we don't have parent permission with a quote that she got from Tanya Gutierrez about how the gardens have influenced her family. **Would you like to create the take-home flyer?**

Count how many times this school year we will need to send material home in Monday folders so we can plan ahead and avoid last-minute tasks.

### ***Website***

Melinda is looking to convert the current website into a blog. I'll let you know the process once I finish my research (i.e., once I've read ***Blogging for Dummies!***).

## **LEADERSHIP**

- Anne F. has mentioned that she could lead our efforts in the Dreams garden.
- Jenifer has expressed her interest in being liaison with the food bank and keep tabs on delivery days, desirable crops, etc.
- Melinda can head up the landscape garden efforts and will type up a list of tasks that should be done each year.
- **Since Ginny has already perfected the relationship between the garden group and the PTA, find out if she is willing to be serve as the PTA's contact point again this year.**

## **FINANCES**

Identify big-ticket expenditures so we don't forfeit our \$1,200 PTA budget. Ideas so far:

- Revamp our composting system so we can avoid having to purchase compost each spring. Contact a Master Gardener or Dirt Works for help.
- Melinda will spend approximately \$50 this week to revamp plantings in the flagpole area.

*Melinda Spencer*