

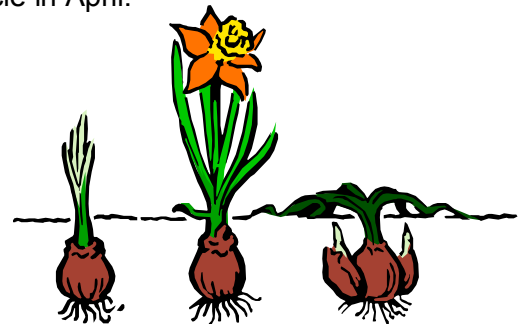


## Garden Project Update

Fall has officially arrived, but the gardening does not stop! The Florence Roche Garden Project will continue into the autumn months. Fall is a great time to prepare beds and transplant. We plan on continuing our transformation of the school grounds to a thriving, living habitat for insects, birds and children!

### What have we accomplished so far?

1. We have upgraded the welcome sign at the entrance to the property, adding color, beauty and life to a once dead area. A pumpkin plant is growing this fall in the welcome garden and we hope children are able to make a trip out to see their own FloRo pumpkins growing!
2. Mrs. Wenz's class last year donated 5 birdhouses to be put up around the campus. Three have been hung this month and we await our nesting friends in the spring.
3. Lisa and John Wiesner donated two gorgeous planters at the front doors to the school and Lisa filled them with a blueberry bush and other flowers. They are still happily growing.
4. The Wiesners and a few parents built an arbor last spring. Lisa Wiesner was able to get local cedar, which was dead and was being cut down. This arbor was built for no money, just a lot of sweat equity. It has been installed in the butterfly garden outside Mrs. Taylor's kindergarten room. Mrs. Wenz's class grew morning glories this past spring, which were transplanted to the arbor and have grown up the sides.
5. Two cedar-raised beds were built at the end of this summer. Dirt will be added and we hope to plant some fall crops to come up this spring.
6. Butterfly and Sensory gardens are underway, but need a lot more work. These are both located outside the two full day kindergarten rooms. We hope to have these gardens fully functional by the spring.
7. A full weeding and grooming was given to the drop off circle in April.



## What sort of gardens are we planting?

We are creating both edible gardens and habitat gardens.

**Edible:** The edible gardens will be in raised beds for easy access and assured clean soil. We hope to plant vegetables that either come out in the Spring like lettuces, chives, and radish or vegetables that can be harvested in the Fall like squash, potatoes, carrots, cabbages, and beans.

**Habitat:** Habitat gardens attract life. Grass is a dead world, but shrubs, trees, flowers, and native grasses create little worlds of life. Insects, butterflies, chipmunks, birds, toads and squirrels can live near the school and can be observed. Birdhouses and feeders can be placed outside classroom windows. Habitat gardens also attract children and teachers through their beauty! Spaces can be used for outdoor classrooms and learning opportunities.

## Why are we putting in gardens? What is the point?

Engagement with the natural world is critical to a child's development. Children need "learningful" landscapes in which they can investigate, manage, and restore natural process. The schoolyard that is devoted to habitat and problem-solving becomes an engaging and language-rich environment for children and teachers alike. It serves all aspects of curriculum, conveys the message of caring for nature and children, restores attention, and allows for play, inquiry, and reflection.

## How can you help?

VOLUNTEER!!!

We always need volunteers to build, weed, dig, move, shovel, etc. There is an email list you may add your name to get regular updates of work days.

We are always looking for in kind donations.

We are currently seeking:

- Bulbs for Fall planting
- A bench for under the arbor
- Plants from your garden to transplant
- Garlic to plant this Fall
- Bird Feeders on poles

Email [tdoggett@charter.net](mailto:tdoggett@charter.net) to help!

