

# Shorecliffs West View Learning Garden



## Project Status - as of January, 2012

The Garden Committee, together with our local Boy/Girl Scouts, has been hard at work and has recently completed the gate entrance, 6 raised vegetable beds and the stairs. This year we hope to complete the signage, the outdoor dry erase board cabinet and a decomposed granite path. We would also like to add an outdoor reading and writing lab with tables and chairs, however, this is contingent on receiving additional grant funding.

To date, Shorecliff's Garden has been awarded \$10,000 in grant funding. This includes a recent grant from WalMart for \$500 (Finally!). We have applied for three additional grants and will be notified in the upcoming months. They are: Captain Planet Foundation, School's First Credit Union and Whole Foods.

## Garden Activities

### A sampling of some of the activities already taking place in our garden!

#### 6<sup>th</sup> Grade Science (Earth Science)

- Mr. Morales' classes have been out in the garden spreading mulch to keep the weeds and mud at bay. Students learned firsthand about how and why mulch and compost generate heat as they decompose.
- Students have enthusiastically cleared weeds from the adjacent embankment and have seeded it with California native wildflowers.
- Students will begin using the compost bin and filling it up with lunchtime leftovers that they will collect.
- Their next project will be reparation of the existing soil to increase the productive area of the garden.

#### 7<sup>th</sup> Grade Science (Life Science)

- Mrs. Goit's classes have been using the garden to conduct outdoor science labs.
- 1st week of January, over 200 students participated in a genetics traits survey lab and ate lots of homemade split pea soup in honor of Gregor Mendel. Over 8 gallons disappeared; students even came after school asking for more to take home!
- Mrs. Goit hosted a Winter Fruit and Vegetable Party in December where students had the opportunity to plant the beet crop (which will be featured at the Grand Opening picnic). Students (and parents!) contributed dozens of exciting fruit and veggie dishes. The students were very animated with out the usual sugar "buzz" of sweets at parties.

#### Art Class

- Mrs. Reish's advanced art classes are hand painting the plant identification markers giving a loving artistic touch to our newly planted natives

#### Lunch Time work days

On Thursday and Fridays students can be seen hard at work in the garden.

## Upcoming Events

**Saturday, January 21<sup>st</sup>** 9:00 – 12:00pm Workday – come help us!

Plant succulent garden, install hose rack, move bench, plant wildflower seeds on terraced slope.

**Wednesday, January 18<sup>th</sup>** 6:00-7:00pm Picnic planning meeting

Plan event and seek volunteers to help with decorations, set-up, donations etc.

**Saturday, March 24<sup>th</sup>** 12:30 – 3:00- Grand Opening Picnic

In honor of the first crop to be harvested from the Shorecliffs garden we are hosting a **Grand Opening Picnic**. The garden will celebrate its inaugural harvest with students and parents cooking and eating items grown in their very own garden. Tickets will be \$5 and will include tastings of freshly prepared food and a recipe book. Contact Kelly Small ([the5smallls@hotmail.com](mailto:the5smallls@hotmail.com)) if you would like to help.