

SW SCHOOL GARDEN PROJECT NEWS

The SW School Garden is now gearing up for our 8th season of providing fresh organic produce to our Southwest School Community!

Volunteers in the Garden are always needed and welcome! We will especially need help in March prepping the garden beds for spring planting. Spring Garden Work Days are scheduled for Saturday, March 2nd, March 16th, March 23rd, and Friday, March 8th, from 9am to 3pm. Volunteering in the gardens is a great way for you and/or your student get some good exercise while gaining gardening skills! Starting in April we will have regular weekly garden work days Monday & Wednesday after school and Saturday mornings, that will extend into the summer! In addition to being educational and good exercise, working in the school gardens is FUN! and volunteering looks good on your student's resume!

Garden Club will begin regular after-school meetings in February. Nancy O'Conner from the MERC is planning to help kick us off this Spring with a presentation about 'Why local/Why organic?' on February 11th. In addition to guest presenters, we will work on garden plans and **seed starts!** In April, Garden Club will begin meeting in conjunction our regular weekly garden work days.

If you are interested in supporting our School Garden Project while helping your family to eat healthy, our **fresh organic produce** will be available for purchase by anyone in our SW school community! Starting in May, the SW School Garden Project will set up a market stand each Wednesday evening from 4:30 to 6:30pm at the Clinton Parkway Nursery **Farmer's Market**. Please stop by and see what we, and the other local vendors, have to offer each week! or join our "Growing a Better Future" - **CSA!**

Applications for the 2019 garden season **paid Student Gardener positions** are available in the SW School front office or from Mr. Kennard (SWMS room 704). Any SW Student who will be 14 years or older by May is eligible to apply! Student gardeners are paid minimum wage for helping out ~6-12 hours weekly in the gardens and at the markets, and can earn \$1,000 or more over the full season. The garden season extends from April through November. We are also looking for a new Assistant Garden Coordinator for our garden project. This position is listed on the USD497 job site. Please let Mr. Kennard know if you are interested in joining this program or know someone else who might be!

The SW School Garden is planning to offer a CSA (Community Supported Agriculture) again this year. Joining our Growing a Better Future -CSA is a great way to show your commitment to our School Garden and to eating healthy! With the CSA, you are basically pre-paying for \$10 worth of our fresh organic produce which you then pick up weekly at our market stand throughout the garden season. Brochures with more information about our **2019 Growing a Better Future- SW School Garden CSA** are available in the SW School front office or on-line at the SW Garden Club website. This year we will also be offering a SW Garden Market Punch-Card. For \$20 you would receive a punch card with \$20 pre-paid value to use at our markets any time this season, and as a bonus a free 'Growing a Better Future' tote bag to carry your fresh organic produce home in!

Please email Mr. Kennard pkennard@usd497.org indicating your interest, if you would like to be included on an email group for **periodic updates about our school garden** this season.

If you have any questions about the school garden, please contact Mr. Kennard pkennard@usd497.org - (785) 330-2409. (785) 331-3010 - cell phone