School Grounds Newsletter

November, 2010 Ideas and Suggestion for School Gardens

Bulbs and Garlic

Now is the time to plant your flower bulbs and garlic cloves. Both need the cold of winter to store enough energy for growth.

- City Green has gotten a donation of daffodils and Red Emperor tulips from a generous grower. The daffs are great for reliable multi-year spring color as well as for places that are bothered by deer. The Red Emperor tulips are the bulbs called for in the Journey North Tulip Test Garden program that tracks the arrival of spring. Check out www.learner.org/jnorth/tulip for more information.
- For planting garlic, begin by pulling weeds and debris from your garden. Have students loosen the garden soil. Then separate the garlic cloves from a head of organic grocery-store garlic. Have each student plant a single clove, pointy side up. Cover loosely with soil and watch for small green shoots to emerge before winter sets in.

If you would like to plant flower bulbs, let me know how many bulbs you can use and we'll drop them off this week.

Great Investment

One of the best investments your garden can make is to purchase an orange Home Depot bucket with 25 hand trowels. The bucket is easy to carry to the garden and it has a tool for every student to get to work quickly. Trowels cost about $3 and last for several years.
If funding such a supply is an issue, try posting your project request on donorschoose.org. We know of several generous donors in this program who are interested in funding science projects in Paterson.

Trout in the Classroom

Trout in the Classroom is a science-based program that teaches children about the importance of coldwater conservation through a hands-on approach to learning. Through the process of raising brook trout from eggs to fingerlings, the size they are at release time, students learn about the importance of clean, cold water, not only for the brook trout they are raising, but also for the other organisms, including people.

Science teacher Maureen Bruins began the program in her middle school science class by posting the project on DonorsChoose.org The program was funded quickly and she is busy installing an aquarium in her class. This year, she will use the curriculum guidelines to raise the trout and then release them before summer starts in the Passiac River. Find out more at www.njtroutintheclassroom.org.

A Huge Thank You!

Thanks to the teachers and administrators who attended the City Green Fall Fundraiser. The organization raised over $10,000 to continue our work creating school gardens and curriculum materials for the schools in Northern New Jersey. Congratulations to Marla Arrington and Maureen Bruins who were honored as City Green Teacher Champions at the event.

By Amy Jolin, City Green Education Director