

# Gardening Program

## Financial Details

- \$13K is the total cost
- Teachers asking for \$5000 in order to cover the cost of the program
- Teachers have started applying for grants and have already received \$1500 (which will go back to the school)
- Staff have voted to make this program a priority for the year

## What does the \$13K pay for?

- 2 full-day Pro-D workshops for teachers (to learn how to best use the gardens in a school environment)
- A customized map and garden plan for our school
- All the teaching materials and books
- Garden workshops once a month taught by teachers who are also master gardeners
- Covers costs of seeds, starter plants, compost and soil, tools, gloves, and other supplies

## Our CURRENT garden plan (The plan that is NOT optimal)

- We have 8.5 boxes which are divided up by division. This is problematic because:
  - only 8/15 classrooms get access to a garden plot
  - staff keep leaving and new staff coming so every year it's something new and very individualistic (each class decides what goes into "their" plot)
  - although we (the staff ) are all capable gardeners, it is not possible to engage 30 students around ONE garden box, at the same time, and have them doing something meaningful for a long period of time. There just isn't enough space around one plot.

## Why we love the classroom gardener project

- It is a garden plan that was constructed from the point of view of a teacher first! (not a gardener)
- Instead of each class getting their own little space, we will ALL share ALL the plots. This will allow for EVERYONE to be included, allows for community building; AND, let's each student spend way more time in the dirt, actually gardening.
- This program, because it is designed by teachers, is very inclusive in every way of all of our learners
- We love the "whole school approach" with our own customized garden plan, plot rotation, monthly garden workshops that let everyone get involved and then let US (the staff) take on the plan after the program is done
- The classroom gardener project also has already thought of all the cross-curricular links in every subject in every grade and gives every teacher a lesson plan binder with many pre-made meaningful ways to extend the gardening experience within the classroom, specifically through writing the school goal
- Every teacher will receive Pro-D, monthly workshops with their class, binders with lesson plans, a garden plan, and a book for each grade
- Most of all, the staff would like year-round instruction so they can carry the plan in future years.