

HORT IN THE HOOD

Delta School District Horticulture Initiative

ISSUE NUMBER 1

upcoming

September



Salad greens

Pebble Hill and English Bluff Elementary schools have spinach, lettuce and beets in the ground in preparation for a Thanksgiving salad.

October

Composting

Composting containers will be built by senior secondary shop class students for distribution to participating schools. Students will be shown how to compost.

November



Construction of the Hoop House

Boundary Bay elementary will be the site for our district's very own "Hoop House" where seedlings and plants will be tended for circulation to the schools in the spring. Senior students will build this important facility.



GROW SHARE TRADE



PROJECT PICKLE

A SUMMER PROJECT

"The Delta School District is germinating new ideas in your neighbourhood and we invite you to join us." Superintendent Dianne Turner

GROW SHARE TRADE

Delta has a rich heritage in agriculture and horticulture.



Paradoxically the average age of farmers in Delta and elsewhere is increasing and family farms are few and far between. It is important that we attempt to stimulate interest in food and food production amongst our youth.



You may have noticed that there are 5 raised garden beds on our school grounds.

They are currently growing beets, spinach and lettuce and there are

scallions and garlic planted that will be wintered for spring growth.

These beds will be used for participation in "Project Pickle" next spring.

A number of horticulture unit studies will be added to our curriculum and our own school yard will provide the space needed to get involved. I encourage our children and neighbourhood families to take pride in ownership in these initiatives and take the odd dog walk or family stroll around the site.

If you notice any problems you can call Mike @604.619.3817

Enjoy! Principal Cathy Hussey

“Project Pickle” was a great success this summer as a pilot project. Stay tuned.....

On June 27 2012, two hundred pickling cucumber plants were planted by two hundred students at Pebble Hill Traditional School. The planting was supervised by students from South Delta Secondary and the students were made aware of what “Project Pickle “ was in a general assembly prior. Five raised garden beds yielded 35 dozen cucumbers.

Summer maintenance A trick for school gardening has always been the tending of the crop. A great irony indeed in that summer holidays were intended to help get children back to the family farm for the summer.

This year the problem was solved by employing Senior students from South

Delta Secondary to tend and harvest the crop. This year as we expand our programs, students from Kwantlen Polytechnic and our secondary schools will be involved in the construction of raised garden beds and our training facility, the Hoop House at Boundary Bay.

Building Community Although the raised bed programs at Pebble Hill and English Bluff were “soft launched”, the neighbourhoods quickly adapted to dog walking routines to supervise the sites and took a sense of ownership and pride in what was going on. This spring, with many other schools on board we want to continue that sense of community one school and neighbourhood at a time.



A crunchy and delicious ending to a two month pilot project. 35 dozen pickling cucumbers reaped from 200 plants.



“We are blessed with an abundance of land in our school properties and the Delta School District wants to use them to teach our kids”

Dianne Turner
Superintendent, Delta School District

COMMUNITY FARMING IN YOUR SCHOOL NEIGHBOURHOOD.

A recipe for success

200 pickling cucumber plants

200 students

water, sun, love

Gently mix cucumbers with students and advise accordingly.

Add secondary students during summer to maintain the crop.

Harvest crop and begin to process the yield.



Send secondary students back to show how to pickle the harvest and distribute the finished product. Yum!