

Brief summary from project chair, Marilyn Aebersold, Master Gardener Volunteer, at the
Highland Grade School

Highland Elementary School/ grade 2
Last year 31 students
This year 28 students

Plans for the garden to include the likes of students (end use salsa making)

- Pole beans for easy picking, miniature colored carrots, peppers, tomatoes, onions & cilantro
- Using "bunny plants" & marigolds for pest and animal control & added color
- Safety lessons when using trowels, rakes, 3 pronged diggers, & hoes within the small confines of raised beds and in the presence of other students
- Families took one-week turns at watering & weeding over the summer by Highlands Parent Teacher Organization
- Hands on learning & the educational/ health value of gardening (no chemicals or sprays used)
- Making salsa in September (last year's 31 2nd graders, field biologist Kim Wahl, 2 third grade teachers, MG Volunteer & husband for added muscle power).
- Kids loved using tools, choppers, knives, small processor for mixing, lime reamer.
- Everyone tried the salsa but only two preferred the chips! They ate & ate & we are thrilled to have two lunches that day. Their neighbors in other classrooms were wondering, "Who is making tacos?"
- The kids also washed & sorted green & wax beans for eating raw. Some wondered if the yellow ones were "good?" Others questioned if they should be consumed raw.
- Planted garlic for harvesting next summer.
- Learned that some families have trouble in discerning weeds from plantings thus the loss of our tomato plants, cilantro and most carrots.
- Kids will eat anything they grow, or at least try it.
- Kids travel in packs, even though all had a designated raised bed, they ultimately ended up around the same bed.
- Even though Highland is an agrarian community, only about 1/3 of the kids had any hands on experience with gardening.
- Suggested that the playground equipment be removed & black dirt be provided in its place/KIDS LOVE TO PLAY IN THE DIRT!!

- This year's 28 kids put the garden to bed last week and planted garlic to be harvested next July. They liked the fact that garlic likes to drink coffee!
- Also of interest was that it takes longer to grow garlic than it took to grow the second grader!

Marilyn's final comment: This was a fun project!

Note from president: Very successful results from the grant of \$200 that our association awarded for this project. Marilyn started out with amending the soil in the raised beds and a plentiful harvest made an impact with the students.