

JOB DESCRIPTION

- *Teach children to be garden ambassadors (garden tour guides and representatives)*
- *Teach children specifics about water cistern, Coinker, composting programs, CA Native Butterfly garden, plant varieties and crops being grown*
- *2nd half of the year (after you are trained) teach children nutrition game*

EXPLORER NOTES

- **Coinker** was named by a student and collects spare change for the garden programs.
- **Water Cistern** – Four years ago 5th graders participated in a water cycles program where they calculated the area of the Kindergarten roof to determine the amount of water that runs off every second during a rain storm. Based on those calculations, they designed a Water Harvesting Program for the garden that includes the big and little water cisterns, gutters, rain chains and diverter pipes that run underground.
 - This large cistern holds 500 gallons of water and fills in 20 minutes of steady rain. Students and parent volunteers use this "recycled water" for crops rather than using city water. One of the many lessons about conservation the students learn in the garden.
- **Garden Programs** - K, 1st, 3rd & 5th visit garden once a month with parent helpers to *PLANT* crops, *MAINTAIN* garden and *EXPLORE* and learn.
- **Produce Stand** - All produce not used by individual classes is sold to TMA families. The money raised helps fund PTO programs.
- **Touch and Smell Garden** - Is full of plants for the students to touch and smell like Rosemary, Lamb's Ear, Lavender, succulents and Chocolate Geranium.
- **2nd Grade Vermicomposting Program** - 2nd grade students practice science and math concepts through this fun, hands-on program. Students collect food scraps at lunchtime, bring them to the garden where they are chopped and fed to Red Wiggler Worms. The worms LOVE decaying food, which they consume and then create waste, known as "worm castings". The castings are nutrient rich soil that the students then till back into the garden soil which helps create strong, delicious, nutrient rich fruits and vegetables.
- **4th Grade Hot Composting** - 4th grade students practice science and math concepts through this program also. The students collect brown and green organic matter from around the school and home, like grass and leaves. They combine the two together and then let small micro-organisms break down the matter until it becomes nutrient rich new soil that's tilled back into the garden soil. The students learn they are making a valuable contribution to our ecosystem by using materials that normally get thrown into the trash.
- **California Native Butterfly Garden** - This area is full of native plants such as milk weed that attract butterflies, hummingbirds and bees. The natural wood fences encourage the caterpillars to build their chrysalis at eye level where students can observe. The 2nd grade students use this area to learn about butterfly life cycles, part of their 2nd grade science curriculum.

EXPLORER INSTRUCTIONS (students rotate through explorer role 2-3 times annually)

- **1st, 2nd and 3rd visits to the garden:**
 - use permanent signs as guides through different beds/crops, Native Butterfly Garden and Touch and Smell garden (use T & S map from blog)
 - In T & S garden touch and smell all that they can
 - have children read/observe signs and discuss
 - have children articulate what crops are growing
 - ask children which parts of the plants we eat (carrot-root, lettuce-leaf, tomatoes-fruit, artichoke-flower)
- If time allows:
 - tour Butterfly Garden and look for Milkweed, chrysalis and butterflies.
 - hide garden buddies and have children search for them if time
- 3rd and 5th graders will be invited to be Garden Ambassadors at spring TMA school tours; keep an eye out for children who excel
- **4th, 5th and 6th visits to the garden, after winter training:**
 - teach children nutrition game (designed around what's grown in the TMA garden)
 - Kinder and 1st work as a group of 6-7
 - 3rd and 5th may choose to work in pairs
 - important that children know eating a variety of foods is key to good health as different foods have different vitamins and minerals needed for healthy body

GENERAL INFO FOR ALL GARDEN MASTERS

- **Text John regarding repairs and supplies (714) 856-4007**
- Barn, shed and gate codes 5278 – no children inside
 - Close and lock barn & shed
 - South gate to remain locked during school hours
- Supplies and tools
 - Return clean tools to where you found them
 - Have children fold left and right glove together before returning to bin
 - Rinse dirty rags in trough and hang to dry, put away dry rags
- Water
 - Use cistern water first
 - Turn valves inside barn and at hoses off
- Trash
 - Weeds go in the trash
 - Plant cuttings can go in fenced “browns” bin after being cut to 8” or smaller
 - Full trash cans must be dragged to tunnel area to be emptied
- Green Bucks
 - Reward for the 3 E's: engaged, enthusiastic and extra hard work
 - Redeemed for .50 at Tuesday Produce Stand
- Sign up for blog posts at www.ocorganicgardenblog.com; all info GMs need is there
 - tmagarden@ocorganicgardenblog.com is general email address
- Volunteer hours, have teachers sign for garden visits, garden team signs for training hours

Questions, Contact

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