

Holden School Gardeners Thank KEC for Support

On behalf of the Holden Elementary School gardeners (students, teachers and parents) who broke ground on May 1 for their raised vegetable garden beds, Lynn Gregor wrote the following letter to thank KEC for its support of the project:

June 1, 2010

Dear Kent Environmental Council,

We would like to extend our sincere thanks for supporting the garden project at Holden Elementary. Your monetary support of \$300 made it possible for us to accomplish the first big step in what we hope to be a long-term garden and healthy eating project at Holden! KEC has also supported this project through initiating the start-up of our group, material donations of some members (tools and pots); and through the volunteering of time by other members (Karl Liske and Craig Lucas). We are happy to continue the legacy of KEC in the area of education and promotion of environmental awareness.

A Summary: Out of the two meetings held for Young Families for the Environment last summer, a small group of parents, whose children go or will go to Holden, formed and met to come up with some ideas. At Holden we found key people who were very excited, interested and supportive in pursuing this project too. Julie Troman, Principal, has been very supportive from the start and Cassie Pegg-Kirby, President of Holden School Association, has shared our interest in a school garden project since before we approached her. First grade teacher, Suzanne Stronz and third grade teacher, Susan Louis stepped in as the core teachers in the project and shared their enthusiasm with their students and class time with us to start seedlings indoors, plant the garden and to share our knowledge about gardening. The third grade class has even created a blog about their garden (it can be viewed through the Holden Elementary web site, via Kent City Schools). They will also be coming up with the official name of the garden project—a contest that will be judged by the school's student council.

Garden building day was May 2nd and a wonderful crowd of families turned out to help build the garden. Not much direction was needed as adults and children alike willingly pitched in with the task at hand. A few weeks later, first and third grade students planted the garden during the school day. As of today we have three raised beds with vegetable seedlings growing. Youth and families from Holden, the Kent Recreation Center summer programs and the local Girl Scout troop will maintain the garden over the summer, with help from "garden mentors."

. . . We have tried to conserve funds as much as possible by accepting donations and keeping things simple. This summer we will be making larger plans for the future of the garden—we have started small but we will dream big!

Thank you,
"the garden group"

