



Daniel Bagley PTA
7821 Stone Avenue North, Seattle, WA 98103
206.252.5110

June 2010

Dear Friends and Neighbors of Daniel Bagley Elementary,

Daniel Bagley Elementary is in the process of creating an open, beautiful, and inviting school garden where all classrooms can actively participate and learn through garden based lessons spanning all subject matters. Our school garden will have 18 raised cedar beds (one for every classroom), a garden shed, a large community table, and a cedar fence and trellis with flowering vines.

We have held two successful fundraisers within our school community, but we still need funds to pay for the cedar fence and trellis, as well as the curriculum materials and gardening equipment and supplies the teachers and children will use in the new school garden. We are following up with friends and neighbors like you to see if you can help. Might you or your organization be able to donate to our school garden project?

Attached is a "time line" that shows you where we're at in the project. We're applying for a neighborhood grant from the City of Seattle next month – our application is due Monday, July 12, 2010. Because it is a "matching" grant, the amount we request is based upon the amount we have been able to raise ourselves. So any donation you are able to make – before July 12 – helps us increase that match!

Daniel Bagley PTA is a 501(c)(3) organization, Tax ID 91-1283709, and your contributions are tax deductible and eligible for employer matching to the full extent of IRS guidelines. In addition, businesses or individuals who donate \$250 or more will be honored on a brass plaque that will be permanently installed in the garden after the garden project is completed.

Checks should be made out to "DB PTA" with "Garden Fund" in the memo line. Please mail your donation to: Daniel Bagley Elementary, Attention: PTA Garden Fund Donations, 7821 Stone Avenue North, Seattle WA 98103. (Please keep a copy of your check, and this letter, for your tax records.)

For more information, please contact Trudy Tessaro at trudytessaro@gmail.com or 206-786-4329, or Andrea Day Huber at andreadayhuber@yahoo.com or 206-291-2003.

Please read what some of the teachers, and our principal, have to say about the school garden project, in the attached. Our students are grateful for any amount you can donate!

~ Daniel Bagley Bees in the Garden Committee ~

Marguerite Humphrey, Montessori Teacher (Grades 1/2/3)
Judith Agather, Contemporary Teacher (Grades 2/3)
Richard Swann, Librarian
Andrea Day Huber, Parent Co-Chair
Trudy Tessaro, Parent Co-Chair

Garden Rejuvenation Project Timeline

June 18: Green Lake Windermere office work party in the garden – will level the space, prepare the site for installation of the cedar shed, clean benches, etc.

July 12: Deadline for City of Seattle Small & Simple Grant Application

This Summer:

- District plumber to install two water spigots in the garden
- Cedar garden shed will be ordered and installed
- Big community table built, benches installed around the new table
- Order raised beds from www.naturalyards.com

August 31: Deadline for \$250 donations for purposes of being listed on the brass plaque that will be permanently displayed in the garden. Contact trudytessaro@gmail.com or andreadayhuber@yahoo.com if you have any questions over the summer about donations. (Donations are still very much appreciated, since the matching grant from the city is not guaranteed! If we don't receive the grant, we'll need to raise more funds to pay for the trellis and fence, curriculum materials and supplies for the teachers and students to use in the Outdoor Classroom and Learning Garden.)

September: Small & Simple Grants are awarded – we will find out then if we receive a matching grant to help pay for the cedar trellis, curriculum materials and supplies!

Early September: Raised bed kits delivered to the school

September, first weeks of school: 4th and 5th grade students use garden plan to measure and mark locations for – and then assemble! – the 18 new raised beds with help from teachers and volunteers!

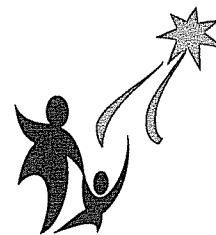
September, after raised beds are built: Cedar Grove Compost will deliver 20 yards of compost to the school (might need a work party to fill all the raised beds with compost & soil)

September, after raised beds are filled: Younger students help by spreading straw all around the pathways. Compost spinners and worm bins returned to the garden.

Late September: New and improved Outdoor Classroom & Learning Garden officially opens! Bees in the Garden Committee will plan an opening event in the new garden space to showcase the garden and celebrate!

November (during Thanksgiving break?): Chain link fencing removed and cedar trellis and fence installed, making the Garden Rejuvenation Project complete!

Late fall/winter: Obtain final approval from School District for brass plaque design and install brass plaque in school garden honoring our major donors!



SEATTLE
PUBLIC
SCHOOLS

June 4th, 2010

Dear Parents and Neighbors,

I am happy to announce that Daniel Bagley Elementary has received formal approval from the Seattle School District to begin our Garden Rejuvenation Project! Our Bees in the Garden Committee has recruited an impressive force of volunteers, and has designed a beautiful and inclusive garden that I believe will become a remarkable addition to our school.

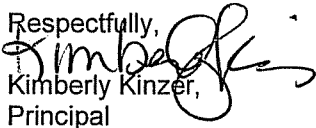
Significant features of the new and improved Outdoor Classroom and Learning Garden include 18 natural cedar raised beds (at least one for every classroom), a trellis, a garden shed, and a large community table for teaching and neighborhood events. I am impressed with the Committee's organization and dedication, and I share their enthusiasm for improving our school garden and making it possible for all classrooms at Daniel Bagley to participate in and learn from lessons and activities in the space.

As this is a "self help" project that is not funded by the school district, the Bees in the Garden Committee needs to raise funds and obtain grants to finance the project. The committee has already begun fundraising in earnest, and has received support from a number of local businesses, including Cedar Grove Compost, Green Lake Wines, Tom Douglas Restaurants, the Greenlake PCC, Whole Foods and the Greenwood Market. Two garden fundraising events are already sold out, and I'm told that more events are in the works.

I encourage you to support the Garden Rejuvenation Project in any way you can, whether it be by making a monetary contribution, helping to organize, support or sponsor a fundraising event, or contributing materials or labor for a particular task. Please contact the Project Coordinators, Trudy Tessaro trudytessaro@gmail.com or Andrea Huber andreadayhuber@yahoo.com for more information on how you can help support this worthwhile project.

Thank you to all of our parents, staff and neighbors who have worked hard to get this project underway—our students are so appreciative of your dedication to continuing to improve Daniel Bagley School.

Respectfully,


Kimberly Kinzer,
Principal

Daniel Bagley Elementary

What Daniel Bagley teachers are saying about our new school garden . . .

"I'm looking forward to sharing the interconnectedness of life through hands on work in the garden. Earthworms in healthy soil mean healthy food, healthy children, and healthy adults. It takes all of us digging, delving, planting, watering, growing, harvesting, sharing and educating to bring a community together."

- Marguerite Humphrey, Montessori Teacher, Grades 1/2/3

"The garden will teach my students how they are connected to other living things. It will inspire them to think, write, draw, read, and eat healthy foods. It will teach them how harvesting and sharing build community."

- Judy Agather, Contemporary Teacher, Grades 2/3

"We will use the garden to study plant growth in two of the upcoming science units: "Ecosystems" and "Land & Water." In Ecosystems, we use the garden to study plants and other "beings" in the garden. In Land & Water, we study erosion by walking through the garden. The garden helps us build observation skills."

- Ed Roos, Contemporary Teacher, Grades 4/5

"If to plant a garden is to believe in the future, then to plant a children's garden is to believe in our children's future."

-Rick Swann, Librarian