

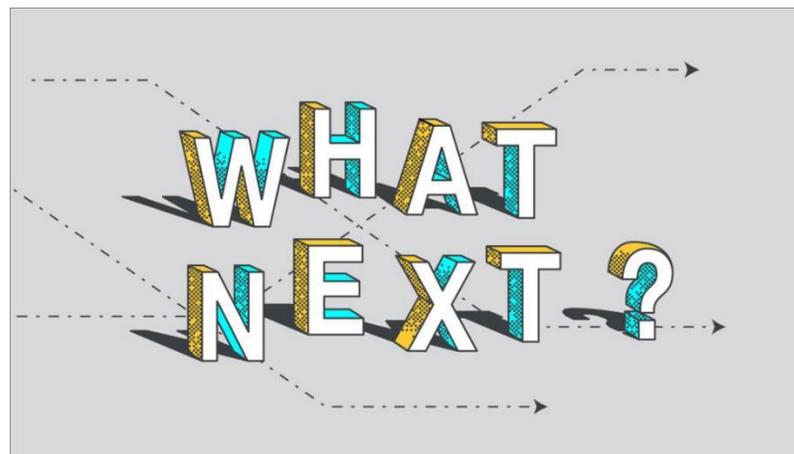


Greetings! I wanted to update you on a few exciting things going on in our school garden.

- In September East received a grant in the amount of \$1,740 from the Okanogan County Conservation District. They were awarded a larger grant from the USDA Farm to School program and then distributed it to school gardens throughout our valley. We used some of those funds to purchase weed barrier and gravel to finish the entire enclosed space which was started last October.
- On October 28th, Kim Kogler (Okanogan County Conservation District), Jim Anderson (who is a retired teacher from Okanogan and is the new School Garden Coordinator in our county), and I moved the log rolls and cement blocks that were placed last October. We moved the cement blocks to create a higher raised bed to be wheelchair accessible. Weed barrier was also laid for the remaining area of the garden.
- On Wednesday (October 4th), through multiple collaborations, we were able to spread over four yards of 3/4 inch gravel and crushed gravel to create ADA accessible paths to the classroom space and around the entire wheelchair accessible raised bed. The log rolls were replaced on top of the gravel to provide seating for the outdoor classroom. Beds were weeded and reinforced for weed control. A large pile of old dirt was leveled out and rocks were moved. Phew...this makes me tired just writing this! But no worries...we had SO much help!



- I am so very grateful to our district's amazing maintenance crew (and Mr. Tim Engh for putting up with all of my crazy ideas!), Kim Kogler and Jim Anderson at the Conservation District, Nick Sackman and the OHS Football Team, FFA Members, and Dave Haigh and his OSPA Elite Young Athletes for showing up and making all of this happen in a very short amount of time! THANK YOU ALL!
- I also want to thank the East Omak Parent Lighthouse Team for paying for 18 Hometown Pizzas for all to enjoy after all the heavy lifting was completed! Thank you to Vanessa for ordering and shopping!
- Each student who participated earned 2-hours of Community Service Hours. Thank you to Cathy for coordinating!
- I want to take a moment to thank Kayla Gutierrez for all the watering and coordination she has done! She has also been the liaison with the Conservation District for the last year. I also want to thank the MacDonald family for doing the weeding last spring and over the summer! So very appreciated!



- Our next steps in the spring are:

- Make a dump run to clean up area in front of the garden shed along the fence.
- Spread compost in the raised beds and border beds.
- Plant native perennials around the entrance of the garden and vegetables in the raised beds. We are wondering about a pumpkin patch with an arch that they could grow up?!
- Add garden benches and an arbor at the entrance.
- Come up with some art projects for students to add some color and imagination to the area.
 - Ideas include painted steppingstones, painted rocks around the flower bed borders, some type of permanent artwork or color on the chain link fence, signs for beds, etc.
- Purchase some additional tools and gloves for students and adults.
- Find a way to deliver standards-based science lessons in the garden. Jim Anderson is going to help with this and is looking into creating some virtual lessons for us to accommodate hybrid teaching and learning. (THANK YOU, JIM!)

So many thanks and great appreciation to all who have contributed to our school garden over the last year! It is actually starting to look like the schematic that was created, and it is very exciting!

Happy Friday! Have a restful and relaxing weekend!

LeeAnn Schrock

Principal

East Omak Elementary

#learnleadlove

Here are some pictures of the progress that was made on Wednesday!









OMAK SCHOOL DISTRICT
CREATING A FUTURE FOR EVERY CHILD SINCE 1912