

Jeffers Elementary School  
*Leaving A Legacy That GROWS*



Spring Lake Public Schools  
Jeffers Elementary

- 28 Fourth Grade students
- All Kindergarten students
- 3 Teachers: Mrs. Jettner, Mrs. Knowles and Mrs. Scholtz

**Project Overview:** \*During this time of growth and change for Spring Lake Public Schools, as the old Jeffers School building comes down and the new learning space is erected, our 4th graders wanted to honor their years at Jeffers by **leaving a legacy that GROWS.**

\* Ten-year-olds initiated and participated in a project aimed at bringing hand-on, place-based learning to Spring Lake students by creating a garden box for each Kindergarten class so they can experience nature in our school yard in a whole new way!

\* These 4th grade students have proven themselves to be active stewards in the community who made significant decisions that have a positive impact on their elementary school for years to come.

Community Partner

**GROENINK'S**



**“A garden is a good teacher. It teaches patience and careful watchfulness”**

- Gertrude Jekyll



**2015 - 2016  
Project Timeline**

Knowles, Jettner and Scholtz get a garden box design and place a BIG order with Groeninks for everything our students might need .

Building days are exciting as students hammered together garden boxes and proudly located them by the Jeffers Barn.

**AUGUST      FEBRUARY      MARCH      APRIL      MAY      JUNE**

Mrs. Knowles attends a Science training offered by GLSI (Great Lakes Stewardship Initiative) and gets inspired to create the Garden Box Legacy project.

Mrs. Knowles collaborates with Mrs. Jettner and Mrs. Scholtz to design a project that gets kindergartners and 4th graders planting side by side in student-made garden boxes.

Knowles organizes volunteers to join students to crew together the 4 garden boxes. The kindergartners plant their carrot, pumpkin, dill and basil seeds in cups in their classrooms and watch the plants sprout!

All 4 kindergarten classes joined the 4th graders outside and planted their sprouts inside the boxes. We got our hands dirty , learned so much about working together and GIVING BACK through SERVICE



**Skills Learned**

- Implement an action plan to leave a positive legacy as our 4th grade class moves up to Intermediate School
- Integrate text information to write and speak about the subject knowledgeably
- Apply knowledge of the area and perimeter formulas to solve problems in real world situations (building a garden box)
- Determine how human activities can have positive and negative effects on the physical environment
- Get your hands dirty and engage with nature to make learning **STICK!**