

Reeths-Puffer Elementary



Gardens, Sheds and Compost, Oh My!

Community Partners

- Riverside Park—Jerry Saunders
- Conservation District—Julie Batty
- Marve Engle



For the past three summers, students at Reeths-Puffer Elementary have grown a Community Garden. The garden is placed on the school's playground. Each student in grades preschool-4th grade help to grow vegetables in the garden. Each student in the building starts by planting a seed in their classroom and then transferring it to the garden in the late spring. Over the past couple of years, our garden has grown and last year we built a garden shed. The shed was

empty until this year. The second graders at RPEL conducted a needs inventory and learned that the shed did not have any tools or supplies in it. It was at that point they brainstormed a list of things they wanted added to the shed. Once the list was formulated, the teachers and a few students went shopping at Home Depot to purchase the items. The following is a list of supplies that were added to the shed: rakes, shovels, hand shovels, bins for birdseed, birdseed, suet cakes, shepherd hooks, rototiller, lawn mower, wagon, leaf blower, and more! The other big addition to the garden was a compost bin. After learning how to compost and what can be composted, the students decided they wanted a portable compost

RPEL

2014-2015

School Year Team:

- Entire Student Body, lead by the second graders
- All 4 2nd Grade-Teachers
- All 4 second grade classrooms
- The garden, shed and compost bin will be accessible for ALL students Kindergarten-4th grade



bin that could be placed right near the garden. They also wanted to be able to rotate the bin so that the food/weeds inside would compost at a faster rate. It was important to the second graders that these materials be purchased and stored in a place where ALL students can access them.

Each fall and spring, every student at RPEL gathers around the garden while our principal, Mr. Klimsza, tills the soil.



Learning Objectives:

Students will...

- learn to garden from seed to harvest
- learn to use the tools needed for gardening
- be able to explain where their food comes from
- compost their food waste at school
- work to reduce classroom waste
- communicate to their community about the benefits of eating and buying locally grown goods and produce.



2014-2015 School Year Project Timeline

