

TrashMasters!™
Team **Up** to Clean **Up**



Elementary Division
Brooklyn Borough
& Citywide Winner

PS 185
Walter Kassenbrock

2012 GOLDEN APPLE AWARDS

This certificate is awarded with the sincere appreciation and esteem of a grateful Department and City in recognition of your school's efforts to help make New York City shine.



City of New York
Department of Sanitation
Bureau of Waste Prevention, Reuse and Recycling
nyc.gov/wasteless



NYC Compost Project GOLDEN SHOVEL



Brooklyn Borough
Master School Composter

PS 185
Walter Kassenbrock

2012 GOLDEN APPLE AWARDS

This certificate is awarded with the sincere appreciation and esteem of a grateful Department and City in recognition of your school's efforts to compost more and waste less.



NYC
recycle more,
waste less!

City of New York
Department of Sanitation
Bureau of Waste Prevention, Reuse and Recycling
nyc.gov/wasteless

Created and funded since 1993 by the Bureau of Waste Prevention, Reuse and Recycling, NYC Compost Project provides compost outreach and education to NYC residents, community groups, and landscapers in all five boroughs.



2012 Golden Apple Awards Contest Entry Judging Info

(This sheet prepared for judges' use by DSNY BWPRR)



ID Info: 12011
School: PS 185 Walter Kassenbrock
Grade Division: LM
Borough: K

Golden Shovel Award contestant
(for borough Master School Composter)

2012 Project Entries received for:

School Population: total # 787

TrashMasters! Super Recyclers

Received:

Core Group:

Total Participating:

TrashMasters! Reduce & Reuse Challenge

Received:

TrashMasters! Team Up to Clean Up

Received: 5/1/2012

17

787

PS 185 Garden Project: Children Growing Great Ideas!

Last year, PS 185 began an organic growing garden, wherein 26 classes voluntarily participated in growing seedlings and planting those seedlings in our interactive growing garden. As part of our Garden Project we began a composting program, recycling cafeteria waste, to sustain our garden, and initiated a student Go-Green Workshop to spread the word of our environmental efforts to our entire student body. In only a year, we have grown those efforts considerably. Our students now see our environmental endeavors and the wonders our garden offers as a natural part of their school curriculum.

Prior Year Entries:

02:winner+03:RR-part+10:RR-ru,SR-part,TU-part

School Contact Information:

Phone: 718 745-6610
Address: 8601 Ridge Blvd
Brooklyn 11209

Block&Lot: 3060430001
DOE Location: K185
DOE Bldg: K185

REQUIRED for Super Recyclers only:

Custodian: Mike Sanchez
Custodian's Phone: 718-833-2083
Custodian's Email: ck185@schools.nyc.gov

Contest Coordinator: Rena A Goudalias, AP
Coord Phone (if different): (718) 745-6615
Coordinator Email: rgoudel@schools.nyc.gov

Principal: Kenneth Llinas
Principal Email: KLLinas@schools.nyc.gov

Comments (may not be relevant to judging)

PLEASE CONFIRM Rena Goudalias is Contest Coord (must be teacher or administrator at PS 185K).
App submitted by: Adele Doyle, Parent, PTA Go-Green Chair,
ps185garden@aol.com, 718-921-4987 (h).

Info Confirmed:

5/15/2012

Team Up To Clean Up Contest Entry May 1, 2012

PS 185
Walter Kassenbrock
8601 Ridge Boulevard, Brooklyn, NY 11209
(718) 745-6610

Principal: Kenneth Llinas,
(718)745-6610,
Kllinas@schools.nyc.gov
Fax: (718)836-9631

Contest Coordinator: Adele Doyle
PS 185 PTA Go-Green Chair
(718) 921-4987
ps185garden@aol.com

The Community of PS 185 in Bay Ridge, Brooklyn, with a student body of 787, has established a dedicated mission toward making our school environmentally sustainable and in educating our students about the issues which affect the future of our planet. From our sustainability coordinator to our student Go-Green Team, we have sought to bring creative solutions to our school body to reduce, reuse and recycle in any way possible. Even with school budget cuts, we have not sacrificed our environmental program, but rather have expanded it, seeking out grants and innovations to increase **our students'** awareness of the natural world around us, and the impact we make on that world.

CONTEST ENTRY INFO:

Borough: Kings County

Grade Division: Elementary



PS 185 Garden Project

Children Growing Great Ideas!

Contest Entry Summary:

Last year, PS185 began an organic growing garden, wherein 26 classes voluntarily participated in growing seedlings and planting those seedlings in our interactive growing garden. As part of our Garden Project we began a composting program, recycling cafeteria waste, to sustain our garden, and initiated a student Go-Green Workshop to spread the word of our environmental efforts to our entire student body. In only a year, we have grown those efforts considerably. Our students now see our environmental efforts and the wonders our garden offers as a natural part of their school curriculum.

STUDENT INVOLVEMENT:

Student Participation:	Core Group: 17
Student Participation:	Total: 787
School Population:	Total: 787

IMPLEMENTATION: PS 185's Garden Project

Why this?



A before picture of our PS 185 Garden Project site on the corner of 86th Street and Ridge Boulevard in Bay Ridge, Brooklyn

Beginning with the simplest of ideas that great things can grow from a tiny seed, our growing garden came to life last year. It was in direct response to overpopulation in our school. We recognized that our children did not have a dedicated science room and that we had unused outdoor space. A growing garden seemed a natural fit.

What did you do?

With the full support of our administration, the PTA applied for grant funding and received \$1500 from Citizens Committee for New York City, for the creation of an interactive garden and the general beautification of the school gardens (and also for a composter.) Plans were submitted (see attached) and the site was excavated by parent volunteers. The ground for the site was cleared of debris, roots, rocks, etc.; raised beds were installed, and the water source for the area was repaired.



Our first grant was received in 2010, by our principal, vice principal, faculty and PTA volunteers giving us the green light to begin our PS 185 Garden Project.

Project planning:



Plans and grant applications were submitted (see attached garden diagram) and funding for our project was received in 2010. Volunteers worked through that Fall and into Spring of 2011, to prepare the site of our garden. The ground to be cleared was not prepared to receive vegetation, and needed to be sifted, uprooted and replenished. By Spring 2011, our garden was prepared to receive plants. During

Spring 2011 -- one of the garden beds prepared to receive plants

that time we received a second grant to further our garden efforts.

Our objectives for the first year of our garden project were humble. Again with the idea of how a seed grows, slowly, and with gentle care, we realized that should we attempt too much too soon, we might fail in our goals and lose the momentum we might otherwise have gained from a slower progression.

In offering the garden to our teachers and student body, in February 2011, we invited any classes who might like to plant, to grow seedlings in their classrooms. Those seedlings would then be brought out to the garden by the students and planted in late Spring.



3rd Grade Teacher, Ms. Scipione receives her class seedling packet.

Student Involvement:

The involvement of our students in this program in its inaugural year was more than we could have dreamed of. In our first year, in 2011, we had 26 classrooms voluntarily apply to the program. We distributed welcome packets complete with dirt, seeds, and peat pots, as well as instructions for growing seeds. PTA volunteers went to these classrooms, educating students and teachers in the nature of plants and growing seedlings. The teachers and students then cared for those seedlings for up to two months (including breaks) preparing them for transplant to the garden. Those classes were brought out in May to plant their seedlings, and then in June to see what had

grown.

Simultaneously, other classes who chose not to grow seedlings were brought out to the garden to help prepare the beds. The children dug in the dirt to look for worms, aerated the soil or otherwise prepared the area.

Promotion:

In 2011, as part of our grant applications, PS 185 was asked to widely publicize our garden efforts. We invited our school to a School Beautification Day in May of last year, and invited the press to attend to witness our efforts. Over seventy-five parents, teachers and



Beautification Day at PS 185, May 2011. Over 75 parents, teachers and students participated in planting flowers and sprucing up our Garden. Councilman Gentile, pictured above, also attended to lend his support to our efforts.

children joined together to clean our school grounds and plant flowers in our garden, and our City Councilman, Vincent Gentile came out to offer support. (See attached press clipping.)

Also, in 2011, in light of PS **185's** environmental strides and to support the growth of our Garden Project, a Go-Green after-school program was begun for select 3rd, 4th and 5th graders. The agenda of this program was to have **this "Go-Green Team" act as emissaries to our school, disseminating** to our student body our environmental efforts in general, and fostering the growth of our garden in particular. The students made announcements and educated their classmates about our environmental agenda. A key part of this after-school program was to roll out a school wide composting program to benefit our Garden Project. (See Composting Program Submission below.)

From last year to this year, our efforts to promote our Garden Project have **taken root in our school's psyche. The students ask their teachers when** they can go to the garden. The students proudly show their parents what they have grown. Our Go-Green Team now has a waiting list.

Collaboration:

PS 185's Garden Project could not have been brought to fruition if not for the collaborative efforts of a number of city entities. Thanks to our school administration for their forward thinking support of this project when it was no more than an idea and for encouraging the wholehearted support of an environmental curriculum by our faculty; to Citizens Committee for New York City, **for giving us the "seed"** money to get our project off the ground floor; to the Bay Ridge Food Co-op for supporting us in our Spruce up your School Clean-up Day; to the media, particularly the Bay Ridge Courier and the New York Home Reporter in advertising our efforts to the public, to our local representatives, particularly Councilman Gentile and Senator Golden, for recognizing the importance of a Green education in the primary schools; to our parent volunteers who performed the very real down and dirty construction of our garden; and to teachers who value the addition of this outdoor classroom; the Brooklyn Botanical Garden for coming out to instruct our students in composting; and **finally to Lowe's Home Improvement who recently extended to us a grant of**



Saleen Shah (right) of Citizens Committee for New York City meets with our principal and PTA to discuss plans for our growing garden.

\$4300 to extend our growing garden, adding to it an outdoor science center. (See attached plans.)

Educational Components:



The educational components of our growing garden are multi-layered. We begin with basic earth science -- how a seed grows, to the nature of worms, to the value of that which is organic. Our children are constantly learning from the constructed garden. What bugs are beneficial to a garden? Do we need chemicals? Why are worms important?

What grows quickest? In our first year, it seemed enough that the students were able to get their hands in the dirt and see things grow. It brought to light how few urban children are granted such an opportunity.

And teachers brought to the garden their own educational application. One class came to the garden to specifically release butterflies they had watched grow in their classrooms. Our speech teacher brought out students, and was amazed to see how the garden **facilitated her students' efforts.**

And students brought their own observations. Each bed is a different geometric shape. Without pointing this out to the students, one young child noted this almost immediately. How do tulips grow? How does the vine of a pea plant wrap itself around a trellis? What is a perennial? How do you plant a bulb? Why do seeds need to be planted at different depths? And follow through and determination in caring for seedlings was also enforced? Why **didn't my plant grow? Did I** overwater? Was there enough sun? The questions are endless, and the enthusiasm abundant.



We also brought the symbiotic relationship of nature into complete perspective in our compost program, which directly feeds our garden.

This past February the entire school body participated in a school-wide Literacy Fair, wherein the children were expected to demonstrate an in-depth understanding of a particular subject. We were pleased that the

environmental message of our Garden Project was brought out when not only did the second grade complete a project pertaining to recycling, but a select first grade class chose to focus on the importance of soil to our environment. They planted bulbs, and made a bottle compost which was displayed at the fair. (See Golden Shovel Contest Submission.)

We are growing our efforts little by little. The garden and all it represents, **has become an intrinsic part of our school's philosophy. Our students** recently participated in an Earth Day poster contest held by our state Senator, and a third grader in our school took top prize. Our students willingly look to recycle waste, and any one of them can tell you what compost is. The garden, in its second season, already displays spinach, carrots, lettuce, peas, radishes and baby bok choy, with a multitude of other seedlings being nursed to maturity in the classrooms.

Last week, Senator Golden came to our school on Arbor Day, specifically to plant a tree with our Go-Green Team. Television and news reporters covered the event, and the efforts of our Go-Green Team were showcased.

In May, we will celebrate Earth Week at PS 185, and many of our students will bring their seedlings to the garden to plant. Also, *The Grand Falloons* will present an Earth Day assembly to reinforce our environmental message.



Senator Golden meets with PS 185's Go-Green Team on Arbor Day 2012 to plant a tree in honor of the occasion.

We have grown already more than we could have imagined. Everywhere you turn, the message of environmental sustainability is being brought to light at PS 185. Reduce, Reuse and Recycle are the words of today. And it is the children who will bring that message.

PROJECT ANALYSIS:

What worked?

Because we began small, and kept our goals obtainable, we must consider that the entire project succeeded in the most spectacular way. After the initial start-up funding, it costs little to carry out our seedling program. All you need is some seeds and some dirt. We had the full support of our school administration, and a faculty willing to try something new. The enthusiasm of the children was contagious, and our volunteer efforts were consistent. All this added up to a successful project.



What didn't work?

We knew from the beginning of our Garden Project that the most challenging aspects of the program was that the site of the garden was not perfect, due to the lack of sunlight through much of the day. For this reason, plants grew at a slower rate, and children did not get to see the full harvest during the summer months, (although, lettuce was harvested early.) And other fruits and vegetables were harvested at the beginning of the next school year. We learned from this, to plant more cold weather vegetables to ensure the students could fully witness the product of their labor.

We also learned that the garden requires a lot of care, not only in the Spring but particularly during the summer months! Our volunteer base in the first year was limited (only 5 full time PTA committee members.) However, in our second season, we have adopted a Facebook Page, and grown to 20 plus members. Watering was also generally an issue until we adopted the simple solution of a timer.

Another particular challenge was in seamlessly integrating the garden and **our environmental agenda into the school's curriculum.** Understanding the many responsibilities our teachers have on their plates, we offered our garden as a voluntary activity. The teachers discovered for themselves what possible educational objectives might be met.

Also, in our first year, the teacher base of our Go-Green Committee was limited; however, in our second year it has grown, making it a true Parent-Teacher joint project. Our Go-Green Committee, including our Assistant

Principal, who is also our sustainability coordinator, and our faculty liaison, meets every month to productively further our environmental goals. Our principal has reinforced our goals in faculty meetings and our Maintenance Staff is proactive in identifying solutions to particular problems we encounter in the garden. **“Go-Green” is truly a part of PS 185’s vernacular.**

Our greatest challenge, however, is sustaining our project next year when **our school’s windows are scheduled** to be replaced, and the brick repointed. Our garden is likely to suffer from the scaffolding which will enshroud the school. But our principal has already speculated on how to continue our program most effectively, and we are even now considering expanding our garden program to include a hydroponic growing garden on our rooftop play area. We will need to seek additional funding if we are to consider this avenue. Also we have another area of our school grounds to develop (away from scaffolding) and are considering a touch and feel pathway garden for the students to explore. Our options are only limited by our imagination. The PS 185 Garden Project is sure to evolve and thrive for years to come.

Applicability to other schools:

We hang a banner from our garden, telling the world about PS 185’s Garden Project and “Children Growing Great Ideas.” But we also add our email address, because we hope others will want to follow our lead. Recently, a teacher from another school came out to see our garden wondering how she could replicate our results. **We explained the pitfalls (it’s a lot of work) and the rewards (too numerous to list.)** But most importantly we tell those who ask, how little it cost to bring this project to fruition, mostly dedication and determination, and a little seed money. **And don’t take on too much too soon.** Like a seed, the project needs time to grow and take root, but when it blossoms, it is quite a thing to behold.

Measuring Success:

Because we are entering our second growing season, it is easy to measure our success. We can measure our success in realizing how quickly our teachers sign up for our gardening program, or by the seedlings that are already growing. We could even measure success by the politicians who recognize our work or in the number of parents who tell us who excited their children are about planting. But ultimately, we know we are successful, because the garden is no longer, *just* a garden. It is the flagship for



Produce from PS 185’s first growing season

something bigger. "Go-Green" at our school is so thoroughly entrenched in our students' minds that, they look forward to our Go-Green Team's Tuesday and Thursday "Did You Know Environmental Facts of the Day." We have expanded our environmental efforts to include paper recycling and electric conservation. Our composting program now has two composters, and the lunchroom staff, also composts kitchen waste. All of this came from the tiny seed of an idea that children need to understand the natural world because they are the stewards of the earth. *That* is how we measure success.



Golden Shovel Award Contest Submission

Describe your school's indoor and/or outdoor composting efforts:

Our school composting program is a direct extension of the PS 185 Garden Project. Funding for the composter was received from Citizens Committee for New York City. Our agenda was to create an educational component to demonstrate the fullness of organic gardening, which includes composting. In our first year, the Go-Green After-School program brought educational awareness about composting to the student body. A week was designated in March to collect compostable materials in the lunch room. The Go-Green Team was first educated in the nature of composting, and then supervised the collection of the materials in the lunchroom. The entire student body



Some of the finished compost from our first compost attempts at PS 185

participated, and the Go-Green Team answered any questions the students had about composting. (The students did not handle any waste.) The compost was monitored, and displayed to all students who visited the garden. The students were able to witness the process of decay of the waste. In June, our Go-Green Team deposited the

completed compost into our school growing garden.

In our second compost season, we again replicated our efforts in the cafeteria; however, the remarkable thing was that our general student body did not require any education having remembered composting in the cafeteria from the year before. This year, our lunchroom staff even participated, proactively identifying compostable lunch by-products and discarding them appropriately.

During the week of March 12-16 of 2012, Go-Green Team members and parent volunteers collected food scraps during all three lunch periods. (Children did not handle food waste.) The collected scraps were weighed at the end of each day with a total of over 120lbs collected during the week. Volume, weight and notes about what was collected were recorded on a chart. (Demo Chart attached.). The food scraps were mixed with leaves collected by students in the fall and straw used as a Thanksgiving decoration. It was enough to completely fill our outside Garden Gourmet Composter.

Educational Components of our Composting Program:

In this, our second season, our composting program has developed a more organized academic component. Our head composter, parent volunteer, Kate Wimsatt, is enrolled in the Master Composter Certificate Program at the Brooklyn Botanic Garden. MC candidates receive 24 hours of classroom instruction and must complete 30 hours of public outreach service. The course covers the following topics:

- the small-scale composting process
- how to use finished compost
- how to design and build on-site compost systems
- techniques for teaching others about composting

Kate is on her way to becoming a master composter and continually brings back what she learns to educate our students.

Compost in a bottle:

A select first grade class made a bottle compost to display as part of their Literacy Fair project on the importance of soil. A compost bottle is a simple, highly visual, small scale compost project that demonstrates how vegetable and fruit scraps break down into a nutrient rich soil amendment. Students in Ms. Russo's 1st grade class collected fruit and veggie scraps from home to add to the bottle. They layered the scraps from home with leaves and some finished compost. Students observed the daily changes in the bottle and wrote about what they observed.



A first grader at PS 185's Literacy Fair explains composting to a curious parent.

March is Compost Month at PS 185:

For the second year at PS 185, March was designated as compost month. This year, during composting month, Go-Green Team members read morning "Did you know?" facts about composting over the P.A. system to the entire student body.

The Go-Green Team also attended workshops on composting every other Tuesday in March. Their compost curriculum included answers to the following questions;

- What is compost? (the controlled decomposition of organic materials into a nutrient rich, soil-like material)
- Why is it important to compost? (divert waste from landfills, return nutrients to the soil in a form that is available to plants, helps retain water, helps improve soil health...)
- What can and cannot be composted in a school/backyard compost system? (yes to fruit and vegetable scraps, no to dairy, meat and anything covered in oil, sauces. No plastic, metal or glass...those go in recycling)
- What is necessary to make good compost? (a mix of brown carbon rich materials such as leaves and straw and green nitrogen rich materials such as apple cores, banana peels, coffee grounds and any other fruit and vegetable scraps; air and water are also essential)
- What is a Compost food web? (micro and macro organisms including bacteria, fungi, worms, beetles, and sow bugs go to work to break down materials in the compost pile)
- How does finished compost look and smell? (dark brown and crumbly with an earth-like scent)
- How can we use compost? (enrich our soil to make plants healthy and strong, make contaminated soil healthier)

The Go-Green Team also designed posters for our compost area to let our community/parents/students know what we are doing at PS 185.

The children's education was further enhanced with a compost workshop on April 4, given by Emily Bell-Dinan, Project Coordinator, NYC Compost Project in Brooklyn of the Brooklyn Botanic Garden.



The Go-Green Team learning about composting from Ms. Bell-Dinan of the Brooklyn Botanic Garden

We have obtained literature on composting from the Department of Sanitation, to be distributed to our entire student body. Also, every class who has come out to the garden is offered an opportunity to visit the compost bin.

We are currently experimenting with planting techniques, incorporating compostable materials directly into the base of our planting beds, and layering this material with replenished soil and manure, to fortify our plants and replenish our soil.

Describe collaborations with outside organizations, including compost education:

We are greatly benefited once more in the dedication exhibited by our parent volunteers in bringing this composting project to fruition. Kate Wimsatt and Danielle Bullock have spearheaded this program, educating our students on the elements of composting. Ms. Wimsatt is currently undergoing additional training from the Brooklyn Botanic Gardens to become a Master Composter, and the Brooklyn Botanic Gardens provided a lecture on composting at our school for our student Go-Green Team. Part of our **recently received Lowe's Home Improvement Grant will be used to further demonstrate the process of composting.** But the entire project began from funding received from the Citizens Committee for New York City, giving PS 185 the means to purchase our first composter.

Explain if and how these composting efforts will be maintained on an ongoing basis:

It is through the dedication of our volunteers, administration, faculty and students that this composting program has been successful thus far. We are constantly learning and adapting our composting program accordingly.

We have learned from our mistakes.

- Hay is good to have on hand as an additive to the compost, and an aerator is good to have for a non-tumbling composter.
- For Compost Collection week, we know to ask the lunch staff to order apples, not oranges that week, since apples make less acidic compost.
- Also, last year we used the tumbler composter which became water logged, turned anaerobic, and was very hard to turn because of the clumped material and weight with all the additional water. We learned that the tumbler needs to be situated away from the sprinklers and is better suited for smaller batches of compost or short term collection before scraps are added to the Garden Gourmet.

We also look toward our composting future.

- Our Master Composter-in-training has dreams of incorporating a worm bin somewhere on the school grounds, particularly when we see that students never tire of finding a worm.
- For next year, we would like to have ongoing collection of food scraps from the prep area (kitchen staff led, no parent volunteer required except to dump into the compost bin) and increase the collections in the cafeteria as much as is possible given the commitment required from

parent volunteers and the space requirement of the compost bins. One week a month would be a very reasonable amount. This would require the addition of two more Garden Gourmet composters (available for \$61 each through the NYC Compost Project), and a compost crank for aeration (\$45 through the NYC Compost Project). Finished compost would be used in the school garden and on street trees surrounding the school.

- **Part of a recent Lowe's Home Improvement** grant recently received by PS 185 to construct an outdoor Science Center is earmarked to further demonstrate composting education to our whole student body. (See attached diagram of the proposed Science Center.)

Our composting program will carry on as long as PS 185's Garden Project continues to steam ahead. We have demonstrated the planning, execution and follow-through needed to succeed, and have been recognized for our determination by grant awards and proclamations from our political **representatives in recognition of our school's environmental agenda.** We dream of receiving funding to reinstate our after-school Go-Green program on a larger scale. But until that time, we have the dedication of parents and faculty and the enthusiasm of our students to drive us forward.

Could your school's composting efforts be replicated by other schools with similar populations?

In our mind, a school composting program works best hand in hand with a school garden. It is in realizing the value of the ecosystem that our environmental educational objectives have been best met. What is organic? What makes plants grow? Where do nutrients come from? How can we leave the planet a better place? We recycle paper. We reuse plastic. We reduce food waste. Composting is a natural extension of the environmental message at PS 185.

We believe that any school of similar populations to PS 185 could also have a composting program, but it is helpful to have certain components to encourage success. First, a strong volunteer base is key. An established environmental committee, preferably comprised of teachers, parents and possibly students, which meets regularly will help keep the project moving forward productively. And finally, a student Go-Green Team, would serve as a beacon for the entire student population to follow.

PS 185's Go-Green students designed the t-shirts for their Team. They call **themselves the "Planet Protectors."** **Composting to our students is just** another way to put their money where their mouth is.



PS 185 Go-Green Team 2011-2012

Addendum of additional exhibits attached:

Diagram of Proposed (and Completed) Garden Site

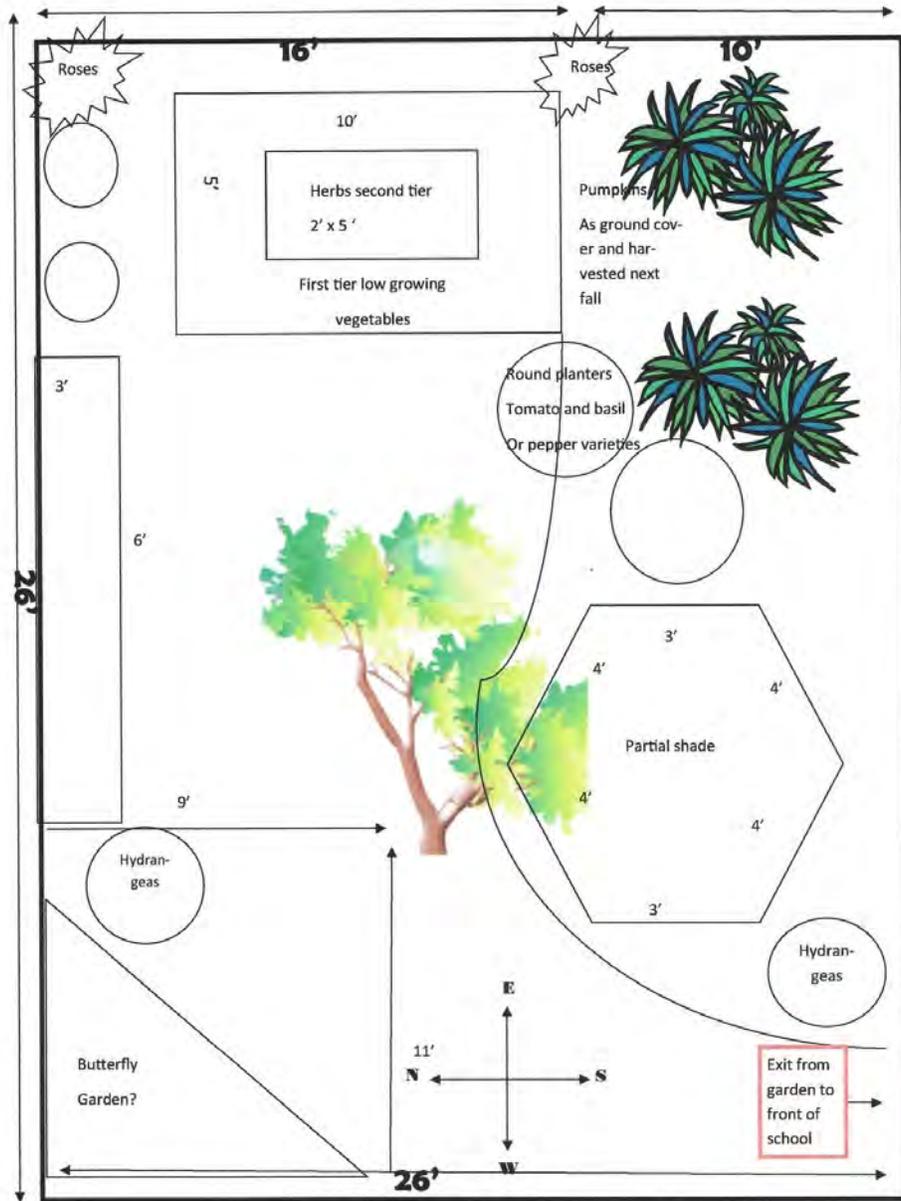
Classroom Welcome Letter for Seedling Program

Invitation to PS 185 Beautification Day

Press Clipping about our Garden Project

**Diagram of Proposed Science Center
(to be constructed Summer 2012)**

Compost Collection Measurement Chart



3/18/11

PS 185 GARDEN PROJECT

Class #: _____

Your Volunteer: _____

Volunteer Email: _____

Welcome!

We are so happy you have chosen to participate in what we hope will be a wonderfully rewarding experience. During the next eight weeks, you and your students will be raising baby seedlings which, after danger of frost, you will transplant into our new interactive garden (to be developed at the corner of 86th and Ridge.)

Enclosed you will find seeds, soil, a plant mister and plant container among other items. We have also included the name of your class volunteer who will help you in any way you need, by assisting in the actual planting and in demonstration of exposure to sunlight and proper watering. Your volunteer will also, if you like, "plant sit" your seedlings when we are away on break. If you did not request a volunteer, we have included one to hold on stand-by should any needs arise.

Reverse of this page are instructions for the seedlings, but if you have any additional questions, please feel free to email us at ps185garden@aol.com or speak with your volunteer.

Best Wishes and Happy Planting!

Fran Ziska and Adele Doyle
PS 185 Gardening Committee

PS 185 Walter Kassenbrock

8601 Ridge Boulevard in Bay Ridge

Invites you to Celebrate
Our Garden Project

Spring Clean-Up and
Garden Beautification Ceremony

Saturday, May 14
2 to 4 pm at PS 185

Through the dedicated efforts of our volunteer families, school administration, teachers and students, and made possible in part from funding received from the Citizens Committee for NYC, we are celebrating the ongoing construction of a children's interactive growing garden and other Go-Green Initiatives at our school.

Please let us know if you can attend to celebrate this occasion with us. Any questions, please contact Adele Doyle at PS185garden@aol.com or (718)921-4987. Bring garden gloves, shovels, rakes, etc. Children must be supervised.

MAY 19 - MAY 25, 2011 • THE HOME REPORTER

PS185 wins grant to create on-campus garden

13

JESSE LENT
home reporter@aol.com

For students at P.S. 185 in Bay Ridge, the grass just got a little greener.

The school was a recent recipient of a \$1,000 Love Your Block grant from Citizens Committee, as part of a partnership with the city. On May 14, a group of 50 volunteers (most of whom were students) put the money to good use, installing a community garden in front of the school at Ridge Boulevard and 86th Street.

According to Andrew Goumarides, director of external affairs at Citizens Committee, the lack of green space on the block was major factor in the school being among the 50 recipients of the grant. There were 180 total applicants for the project.

Another aspect of P.S. 185's proposal that gave it an edge, Goumarides explained, was the amount of student interest for the project.

"When we have a project that has a lot of volunteers coming out and a lot of volunteer mobilization that definitely helps speak to the application process," he said.

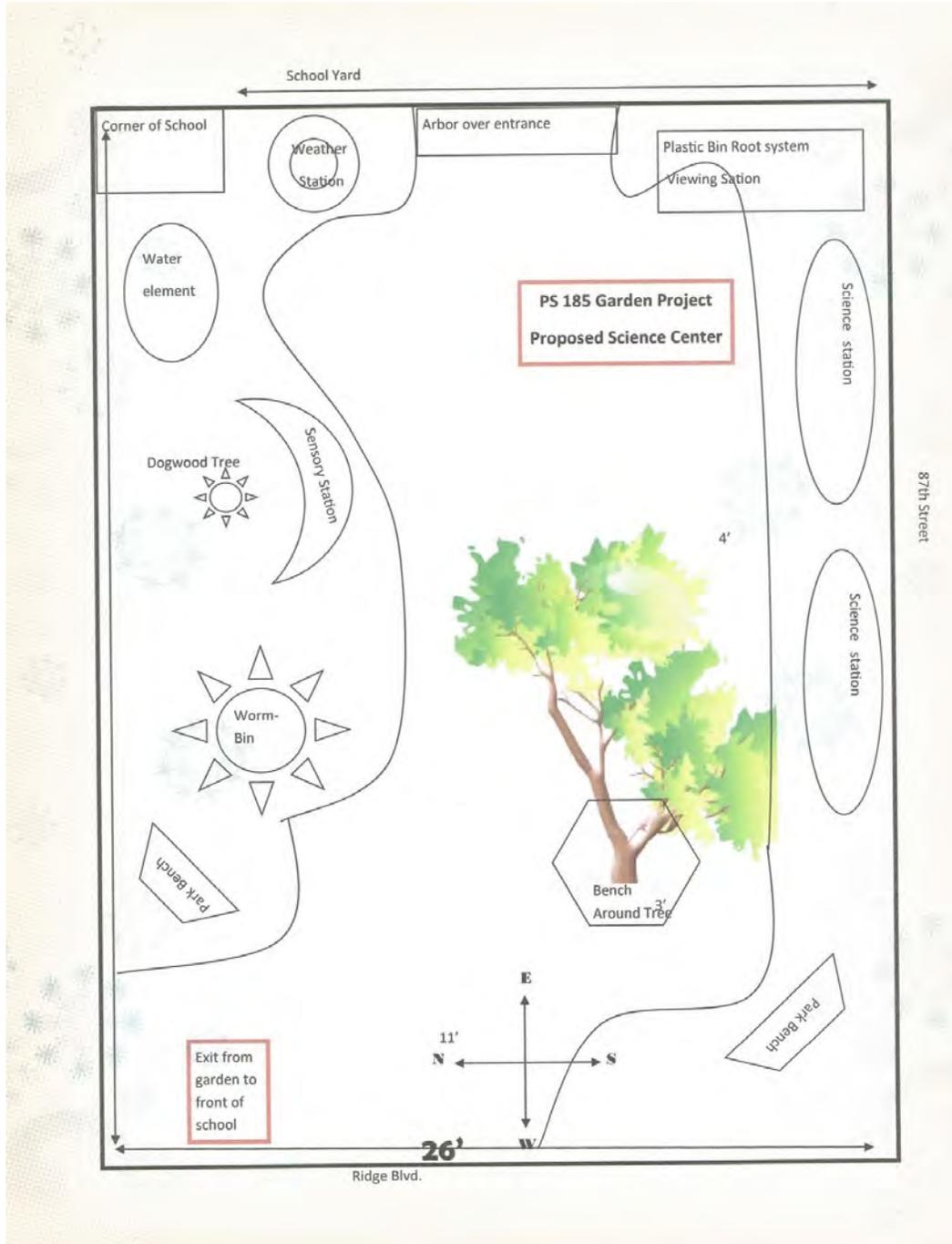
City agencies assisted in judging entries and providing services. P.S. 185 students opted for mulch from the Parks Department. That should help the new garden serve the purpose that students and school administrators have envisioned for it.

"The goal is to turn that space into an interactive garden so they can use it in their science classes starting this fall," Goumarides said.

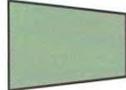
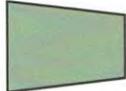
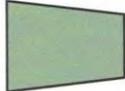
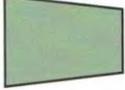
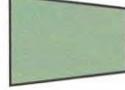
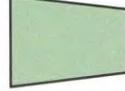
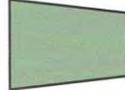
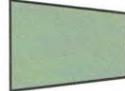
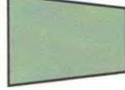
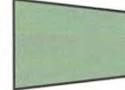
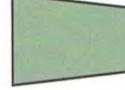


P.S. 185 Garden Project volunteers posed for a photo. BROOKLYN MEDIA GROUP/Photos by Arthur de Gama

ARTICLE CONTAINS A PHOTO



Compost Collection Data Sheet

Date	Volume			Weight (total at end of 3 lunches)	What went in the bin?
	1 st	2 nd	3 rd		
Monday 3/12				___ lbs ___ ozs	
Tuesday 3/13				___ lbs ___ ozs	
Wednesday 3/14				___ lbs ___ ozs	
Thursday 3/15				___ lbs ___ ozs	
Friday 3/16				___ lbs ___ ozs	