

RANCHO BODEGA HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Bodega Bay School Garden

by Robin Rudderow - 2016

The RBHS office is at the back of the Bodega Bay Elementary School. Walking past the Children's' Garden at the school, I noticed its disuse since the last garden teacher retired. A gardener at heart, I suffered for the garden until I finally asked Principal Nancy Wolf if she needed help. So, on behalf of RBHS, and in appreciation for the school so generously letting us have our building on their property, I'm the garden teacher.

The school has two classrooms. The kindergarten, first and second grade class has 14 students and the third, fourth and fifth grade class has 11 students. A third classroom in the building is used for the aftercare program, and will also be used for the upcoming preschool program. A nice little preschool playground has been installed, and will soon be available for after-hours use by the community.

My first few classes with the children have focused on basic gardening skills such as transplanting, growing from seeds, paying attention to which direction the sun moves, and the micro-organisms below the dirt's surface. Our next focus will be on learning about composting.

My requests for volunteers has been met with great enthusiasm. It is thrilling that our community is rising to the call to help out our kids! Thanks to Charlie and Mollie Bone for donating a truck load of Mango Mulch and digging it into the garden beds. Thanks to Jon Yatabe for a hearty round of weed pulling, and to Linda Williams for a flat of veggie starts and weed pulling. Merle Nelson donated pallets for a composting structure. And my call for volunteers to help out during class time has lead to an exciting "nature art" project by two of our outstanding local artists, Sue Tichava and Lillian Lehman, as well as a promise of extra hands by Gina Cloud, Caroline Rohrer, and Rick Romero. Thank you all so much, and to the rest of you, please contact me at RBHS@BodegaMoon.net.



RBHS Office



Bodega Bay School

