

2011 Florida School Garden Competition ENTRY FORM

School Oakcrest Elementary

Teacher(s) & Grade(s) involved in garden program

Denny Wilson - Principal

All grade levels Pre-K through 5th

Contact Person Leigh Ann South

Time contact person can be reached M-F 8-5

Phone (850) 595-6980

Fax (850) 595-6988

Address (please include city and zip code) ext. 223

Oakcrest Elementary
1820 N. Hollywood Blvd. , Pensacola, FL 32505

Email address lsouth@escambia.k12.fl.us

CATEGORY (Please mark only one)

☐ SINGLE CLASS GARDEN (Garden used by one class only)

Number of students in class and grade _____

☐ MULTIPLE CLASS GARDEN (Garden used by more than one class or grade,
but not by the entire school)

Number of students involved in the garden and grades _____

☒ ENTIRE SCHOOL GARDEN (Garden that is used by all grade levels at the
school)

Number of students involved in the garden and grade 502

TYPE of school garden that you use with your students. (Please mark only one)

_____ Vegetable

_____ Flower

☒ Combination vegetable/flower

_____ Other, please specify _____

Please indicate the number of hours a week, on average; your students spend in the garden. 10
hours

1. Please mark all the activities that your students participate in prior to gardening.

☒ Planning the garden
_____ Designing the garden
_____ Other, _____

☒ Preparing the garden
☒ Choosing plants

2. Please mark all the activities that your students participate in while in the garden.

☒ Planting
☒ Observing
_____ Playing
☒ Experimenting
_____ Other, _____

_____ Watering
_____ Recording
_____ Sitting

☒ Weeding
☒ Harvesting
_____ Fertilizing

3. Please indicate the percentage of time, on average, that you used the garden as an instructional tool in your classroom. 5-10%

4. Please mark the subject area(s) into which you have incorporated school gardening. Check all that apply.

☒ Math
_____ History
_____ Music

☒ Science
☒ Health/Nutrition
☒ Physical Ed.

_____ Social Studies
☒ Language Arts
_____ Environmental Ed.

☒ Ethics (responsibility and nurturing)
_____ Other, please specify _____

5. Please indicate the number of years that a school garden has been part of your curriculum. 6 months

6. Please indicate the types of volunteers that have helped you and your students with the garden.

☒ Master Gardeners
_____ University students

_____ Senior citizens
_____ Garden club members

_____ Parents
_____ 4-H members
_____ FFA

☒ High school students
☒ Older students at your school

☒ Other, please specify service organization from Houston;
Mama Food Bank

7. Please indicate the source(s) of information used to assist in the incorporation of school gardening into your school's curriculum. Check all that apply.

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> County Extension service	<input type="checkbox"/> 4-H education materials
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Teacher in-service training	<input type="checkbox"/> Lifelab
<input type="checkbox"/> Personal knowledge	<input type="checkbox"/> Master Gardener training
<input type="checkbox"/> Educational journals/publications	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Friends/volunteers
<input type="checkbox"/> National Gardening Association's Growlab/Growing ideas newsletter	
<input type="checkbox"/> Other, please specify _____	

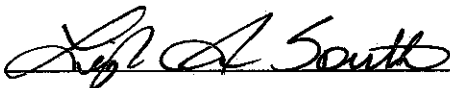
8. Please indicate the types of educational material(s) used in the classroom to support the use of school gardening in the curriculum.

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Library books	<input type="checkbox"/> Computer software
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Internet	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Videos
<input type="checkbox"/> Filmstrips	<input type="checkbox"/> Personal books
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Textbooks	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Experiments
<input type="checkbox"/> Trade books	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Gardening magazines and catalogs
<input type="checkbox"/> Newspapers	
<input type="checkbox"/> Other, please specify _____	

Please read and sign below

By submitting the same you acknowledge and agree that the University of Florida (and Walt Disney World Co.) may reproduce the same, and all materials may be displayed (in part or in whole) at the 2012 Epcot® International Flower and Garden Festival and for other promotional materials. Such presentation materials (and School Garden packets) will NOT be returned to you (they will become the property of the University of Florida and Walt Disney World Co.) Finally, you acknowledge and agree that should your school be selected as a winner under the competition, then to the extent any of the photographs or materials submitted contain the names of likeness of students, teachers and/or others, you will be required to have adult individuals sign (and the parents/guardians of such students) sign consent/release forms provided by us so that we can display those photographs or materials concerning your winning garden. Such requirement would be a condition of your accepting the award.

I have read and understand the above.



Signature

3/28/11

Date

Educational Relevance

Our garden at Oakcrest Elementary is infused into our everyday learning. When you are on our campus, the influence of our garden is seen and heard. You may see students working side-by-side in the garden planting and harvesting or in our Oakcrest Café (cafeteria) you can see the healthy eating habits the garden has had on our students.

During our monthly Positive Behavior Club meetings, you may hear students in our Newspaper Club discussing their article on the harvest, or smell the aroma of garden fresh stir-fry coming from our Culinary Club classroom.

During our Annual Vocabulary Parade, students march around our school decorated with their own vocabulary word. Many students choose garden words where they display their word, meaning and illustration while they parade.

We have seen many changes in our students' lunch selections. At the beginning of the school year, our Café was using approximately 7 pounds of lettuce per day for salads. Since the students have begun harvesting and tasting vegetables from the garden, this number has gone up to around 15 – 18 pounds of lettuce per day. Even though we have not harvested any fruit, we have seen our consumption of fresh fruit increase also. Every day on our live morning TV broadcast, we announce what is being harvested and by which class.

The garden has definitely enhanced our science curriculum. You can also see its effects on math through the measuring and planning of the garden. Many writing prompts are used in classrooms with rich new vocabulary words our students are learning such as “organic” and “irrigation”. All grade levels have seen how to use the garden to encompass many of their Florida Sunshine State Standards.

Level of Involvement

We currently have twelve vegetable garden plots and several other smaller butterfly and flower areas around our campus. Our main garden is located next to our Physical Education portable where students are able to see it daily. Every garden has three classrooms assigned to it. These classes work together to plant, maintain and harvest their area. Students in our upper grade levels embrace their responsibility to partner with the lower grades. These upper level students take on the role as teacher in the garden and share their knowledge.

This garden would not be possible without the major support of our community. Manna Food Bank has been instrumental in the planning and construction. Chain Reaction, a high school volunteer organization, has put in many hours of hard labor building the garden beds. First United Methodist Church community outreach volunteers have also given time filling the garden beds with compost. Wal-Mart has donated many needed supplies such as soil and mulch. We have been very blessed to also have the talents of “Master Gardener”, Gene Turnipseed, to assist us with our plans and future goals.

We also have support within our own school district. Our Superintendent, Malcolm Thomas, is in full support of school gardens. Our Director of Food Services, Glenna Taylor, has been extremely gracious by donating all the compost needed to begin our garden. Our principal, Denny Wilson, has championed this cause since it began. Mr. Wilson has worked tirelessly and sought out donations when they were needed. He was able to obtain a chain link fence to secure the perimeter of the garden!

Oakcrest Elementary is a 100% free lunch school. At our school, most students are bus riders, and a majority of our parents rely on public transportation. It is very difficult for our parents to participate with us in our gardening. We have overcome this situation by sending home produce from the garden with our students. We have sent home the items for a salad or a bag of collards. We’ve even had parents call the school and thank us for sharing items from the garden.

Garden Quality

We have been very fortunate to have Sarah Bossa, Manna Food Bank's Garden Chairman, work with us throughout the summer months on our planning and design of the garden. Where there once was an old unused portable building, we now have a beautiful garden on our campus. We had help from many members of our community including a service group from Houston, Texas to help our garden thrive. Many hours have gone into a project that began mid-June, 2010 with seeds being planted in late September, 2010. We planted a full variety of fall vegetables including lettuce, greens, radishes, carrots and kohlrabi.

We have been able to use our produce in many ways. Our Oakcrest Café uses items on our food service line and they will also wash and prepare a tasting for our classes. We have also been able to send home fresh produce to our most at-risk students who participate in our Backpack Club program. (This program consists of our most needy students who receive a backpack of food every Friday, so they will have food at home for the weekend.)

What makes our garden unique is the effect it has made on our students. We have had many students that thought all vegetables came from Wal-Mart in a can. They have never had an opportunity to see food grow. Our hope is for our students to realize that they can grow food for their families and even begin their own garden. Our goal is to help instill, healthy eating habits for themselves and their family members. The garden has made a huge impact on our students' learning this school year. We are looking forward to the knowledge that our students will continue to gain over the years to come.



"Making A Positive Difference"

THE SCHOOL DISTRICT OF ESCAMBIA COUNTY

75 NORTH PACE BOULEVARD
PENSACOLA, FL 32505
PH. 850/432-6121 • FAX: 850/469-6379
<http://www.escambia.k12.fl.us>
MALCOLM THOMAS, SUPERINTENDENT

March 23, 2011

To Whom It May Concern:

The School District of Escambia County has many schools that participate in the School Garden Program. Oakcrest Elementary School is one such school; however, they are a bit unique in that their school garden involves all students at every grade level.

This school wide initiative has facilitated a healthier lunch program and healthier snack choices made by students. The garden has flowed into all curriculum areas including science, reading, math, and writing.

Supporting Oakcrest Elementary School with awarding them this grant will only permit this wonderful program to become even better.

Sincerely,

Malcolm Thomas



"Making A Positive Difference"

THE SCHOOL DISTRICT OF ESCAMBIA COUNTY

J. E. HALL EDUCATIONAL SERVICES CENTER SCHOOL FOOD SERVICES

30 EAST TEXAR DRIVE

PENSACOLA, FL 32503, PH. 850/432-6121

<http://www.escambia.k12.fl.us>

MALCOLM THOMAS, SUPERINTENDENT

It is my pleasure to recommend Oakcrest Elementary for the Florida School Garden Competition. The Oakcrest faculty and staff created raised bed gardens for their students in the fall of 2010 and thus began a whirlwind adventure with gardening for many of the students, faculty and staff at Oakcrest.

From my perspective in the world of Child Nutrition, gardening is the perfect project for teaching young students about fresh fruits and vegetables, and it dramatically improves students' intake of these foods. Data from our Cafeteria Manager at Oakcrest has been astonishing. From August 2010 before vegetables were harvested until January 2011, cafeteria selection of both romaine lettuce and broccoli tripled and the number of chef salads chosen by students nearly tripled as well. No classroom instruction even teamed with taste testing would have garnered such results. I would also venture to say that this data is far and above that of many other elementary gardening projects.

The remarkable success of Oakcrest can be attributed to an exemplary administration, faculty and staff carrying out their motto of "Every student...every day...whatever it takes". To augment this effort, we add a cafeteria manager who is a seasoned gardener and has as much ownership for Oakcrest's garden as she does for the quality of her food service operation. Fresh produce from the garden is frequently washed and served with great pride and without a whimper of complaint from her staff. Recipes such as kale chips are tested, served to student and adult customers and now marketed at every opportunity. At the same time the garden has had such impact with students; it has given our cafeteria manager and staff a real connection with student success and pride in the cafeteria's role in the garden project.

To support the dedicated school staff, including our cafeteria staff, and to provide needed supplies, the Food Service Fund has purchased soil and located a three compartment sink to be installed near the garden area. Other supplies will be purchased but only as funds are available. The need for gardening supplies is growing as the Oakcrest staff envisions new goals and directions for their student gardeners.

In summary, your investment in Oakcrest's school garden will enhance the Oakcrest staff's ability to build on these successes and further impact their student's knowledge of food and nutrition.

Sincerely,

Glenna O. Taylor
Director, School Food Services

Oakcrest Elementary



Florida School
Garden Competition
2011



MANNA

GARDENS

MANNA'S

GARDEN SPOT

A Project of PENSACOLA BAY AREA **IMPACT100**

Oakcrest Elementary School Garden The Story in Pictures

Congratulations to the hardworking students and faculty at Oakcrest Elementary School! Their new school garden is complete and the students have been planting their radish, broccoli, carrot, lettuce, kale, and collard green seeds. The pictures below will take you through the process of building the garden. If you are interested in volunteering to help build school gardens, please contact Sarah Bossa at 432-2053 or sarah@mannafoodpantries.org



Before



Digging holes



Setting stakes



Attaching sides to
raised beds



Filling beds with soil



Installing irrigation



Planting seeds



After, almost finished



What beautiful vegetables will grow in the Oakcrest Garden???

Manna Community Gardening Day

Community gardens are taking root all over the country and providing a bounty of produce to the areas they serve. Our own area community gardens are peppered throughout Escambia and Santa Rosa counties with urban gardens, school gardens and an organic garden providing food and educational opportunities to the greater community. On March 12, Manna is hosting a Community Gardening Day at the Bayview Senior Center in Bayview Park to invite the public to learn more about this movement and its importance to the neighborhoods and schools the program serves.

Manna Food Gardens was seeded in 2005 with a generous \$125,000 grant from Impact100 Pensacola Bay Area. The gardens provide an opportunity to ensure not only that the food-insecure receive food, but that the food they receive is fresh and healthy. The program currently consists of several community gardens including several school gardens, an organic garden, a greenhouse and grow troughs.

"The responses we have been getting from children indicate that we are on the right track with using school gardens as part of nutrition education," says Manna Gardens program director Sarah Bossa. "I can't think of any other way to get kids to devour kale or to eat every bit of broccoli and then ask if they can eat the leaves too, than to involve them in the process of growing and preparing garden vegetables."

As the movement grows both locally and nationally, more areas are realizing the benefits of community gardens and gardening in general.

"This event will bring together a large group of people who care about our community, our health and our planet," says Dr. Gregory Tomso, UWF professor. "The time is ripe for our region to create better sustainable food systems and community gardening efforts will help us reach this goal."

The purpose of Community Gardening Day is to bring together interested members of the community who have started, or who would like to start, a community garden. The day will feature keynote presentations by community gardening leaders from the Atlanta Urban Gardening Program and the American Community Gardening Association.

There will also be educational workshops by local gardening experts and community leaders to teach participants how to start gardens or to get the most out of existing ones. Community Gardening Day will conclude with an open-forum gather to discuss the benefits community gardens for this area.

"The most important outcome of Community Gardening Day will be to get everyone together and share resources, gardening efforts," says Bossa. "Community gardens in the area at this event will engender a sense of community, and make it easier to get started."

Tickets are \$8 for adults; a ticket purchase is required to enter Manna at 432-2053. Ticket holders will receive a portable tool shed that will be shared by the community.

Agenda

9:00-9:45 am - Registration
10:00-10:15 am - Welcome
10:15-10:45 am - Keynote
10:30 am-12:15 pm - Presentation
Guests from the Atlanta Urban Gardening Program and the American Community Gardening Association
12:15-1:15 pm - Lunch and ingredients

1:15-2:30 pm - Gardening Workshop
Gardening 101: There's no such thing as a free lunch

Growing Gardeners, Caring for the Earth

How to Make Organic Compost

Community Garden Tour

Break and Groceries

Community Garden Tour



COMMUNITY GARDENING DAY

March 12, 2011
Sat 10:00a-4:00p
Check-in Begins at 9:00a
Advanced Ticket Purchase
Required by March 4
\$5 for students
\$8 for adults
Lunch included
Bayview Community Center
2000 East Lloyd Street
Call 432-2053 for tickets

putting the community in community gardening

Learn how to start a community garden or how to get the most out of your existing garden with national leaders from the Atlanta Urban Gardening Program and the American Community Gardening Association

- Hear expert speakers
- Join the roundtable discussion
- Enjoy a lunch of local foods
- Participate in workshops

Proceeds from ticket sales will stock a portable community toolshed to be housed at Manna and shared by the community - to register and purchase tickets contact Manna at 432-2053

Logos: UNIVERSITY OF WEST FLORIDA, MANNNA FOOD GARDENS, Le ESCAMBIA, Sacred Heart Health System, Play Pensacola, HONORS, and others.

This picture of our garden was used to advertise Manna Food Gardens Day!



improvement and how can we work together as a community to support new and existing gardening initiatives in Escambia and Santa Rosa counties?

EAGLE EPILOGUE

Oakcrest's bountiful harvest

School's garden nurtures learning, reaps visitors

By Oakcrest Newspaper Club

After harvesting broccoli, carrots, kale and other veggies in the fall, students at Oakcrest Elementary are getting ready for a summer

cornucopia.

Mr. Herber's 5th-grade science classes are preparing tomato seedlings for the gardens. Mrs. Bosso's kindergarteners have already planted beans. Strawberry plants and collard greens are thriving in

the plot tended by students from Miss Watson, Mrs. Smith and Miss Grey.



Gardening has become such a big part of life at Oakcrest that it's hard to believe the 12 garden plots are newcomers to the school.

Volunteers from the school staff, community and Manna Food Bank worked to create the raised beds last summer, and students planted seeds shortly after returning to school.

The schools' newly sprouted green thumb is attracting attention. Pace High School students visited the school last fall and interviewed teachers and faculty for a documentary on the gardens. The

short film was later featured in a presentation about community gardening at a Manna Food Bank event.

The school garden went international when

ministers visiting Pensacola from Kazakhstan came to Oakcrest in March to see how the school uses the garden.

"We like what we observed of students making salads with fresh foods," Rakhim Oshakbayev said after a demonstration in Mrs.



Fifth-graders harvest radishes with Mrs. Shald.

Shald's class using fresh fruits and vegetables.

Cafeteria staff clean and prepare garden produce for classroom sampling. Last fall's vegetables included radishes, which some students had never tasted.

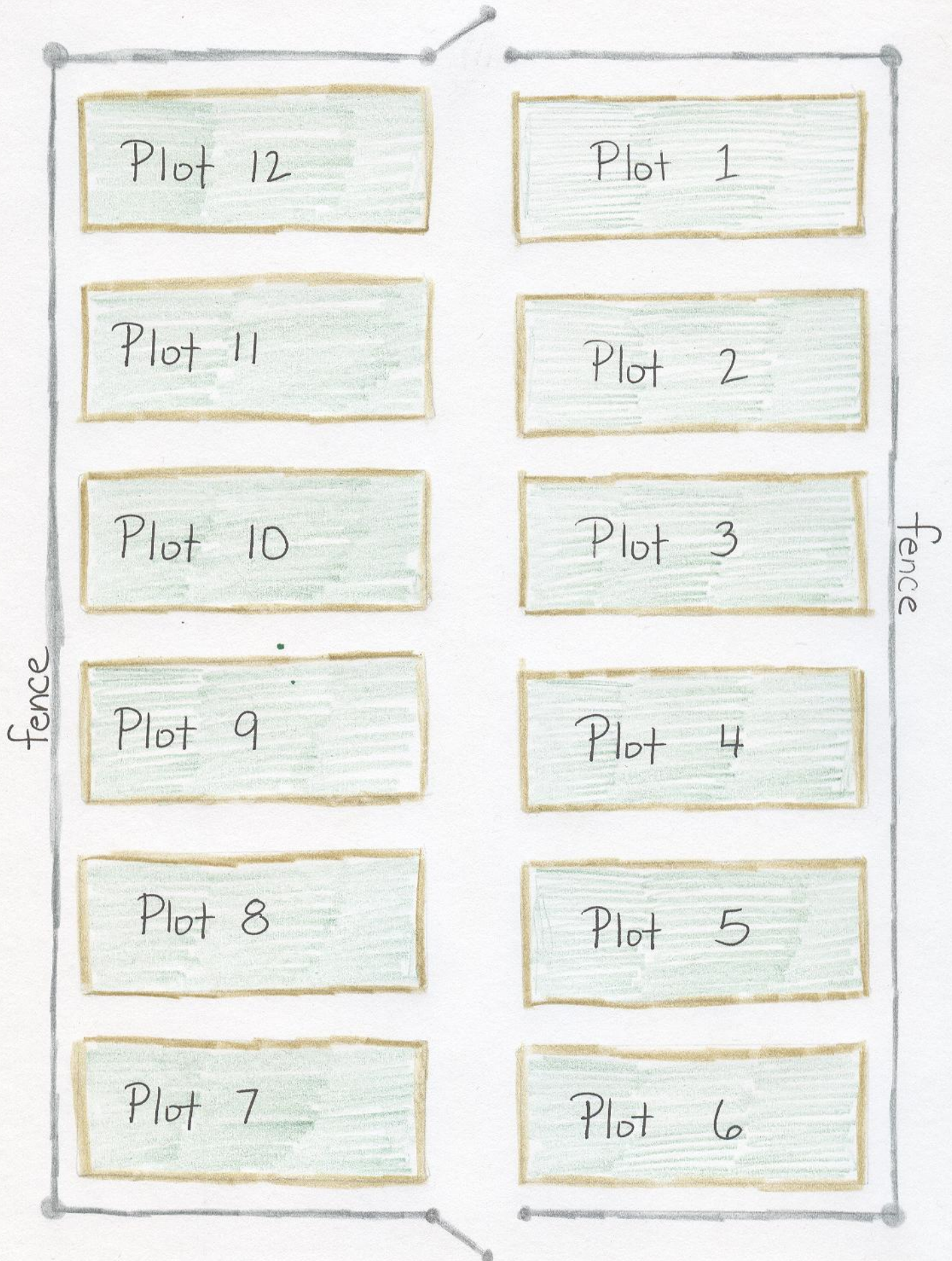
Students in Mrs. Dunaway's second-grade class are working with Mr. Herber's fifth-grade science classes to learn more about gardening and plants.

"There are lots of things you can do with plants," said second-grader Jamaya. "You can plant and share them with other people."

Sharing the summer harvest is exactly what's planned. Students who attend Oakcrest's summer reading program will go home with fresh produce from the gardens.

Stay tuned for more gardening news. Here's a

Oakcrest Garden



Pensacola, Florida



our
future
garden...













Harvest !

