



Thomas Paine

PTA[®]
everychild. one voice.

June 17, 2015

Re: Request for Donation

Dear Friend of Thomas Paine School,

The Thomas Paine Elementary PTA is teaming up with Jamie Minnaert-Grote from the Illinois Natural History Survey to build Thomas Paine Elementary students a school garden. This is not a typical garden; it will be an outdoor classroom to expand learning experiences in not only sciences but also math, geography, social studies, art, and language arts. Too often learning means sitting behind a desk but we hope to change this and transform learning into more of a hands-on process.

This project will consist of two main steps. Step one is to transform the overgrown courtyard garden into a hands-on sensory garden. This will include garden beds that excite all of the senses. For instance the tasting area could include strawberries and the smelling area could include mint. Sensory gardens are particularly beneficial for people with sensory processing issues, such as autism. The garden will stimulate their senses without overwhelming them. It is an area where they are encouraged to interact with their surroundings; to taste, touch, smell, listen and look. But this garden is not just for students with disabilities, it can be a fun educational tool for every student's benefit.

The second step is to build a raised vegetable garden. This garden will be used in history, math, science, art, and geography. A student could grow plants from a culture they are learning about for history or measure parts of plants or calculate area and volume of the garden beds for math. This will be a fun classroom in which they can actively learn.

We are looking for local businesses to partner with to achieve our goals. Monetary donations or supplies such as mulch, compost, plants, or tools would help us build our gardens. Thank you for your consideration, and please feel free to contact Jamie Minnaert-Grote at minnaert@illinois.edu or 319-883-9395 for more information or to make a donation.

Very Truly Yours,

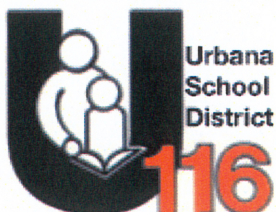
Dana Daugherty -Perez

PTA President

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Thank you for considering supporting our organization!



Sandra Cooper, Principal
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