

URBAN ROOTS

Growing the PS84 Science Program

What is Urban Roots?

A hands-on science garden program for all children of PS 84 in the 2nd floor rooftop garden.

What does the garden grow?

Vegetables, herbs, and knowledgeable children. When children grow things, studies have shown that they are more likely to eat and enjoy them.

What does the garden teach?

Nurturing children's proficiency in science, math and literacy through their innate connection with nature and one another.

What we have:

Planters, plans, curriculum, energy and vision.

What we need:

\$15,000 total—10K for the teacher, 3K for the programming, and 2K for supplies.

Why donate?

This is a proven program that provides hands-on science and wellness lessons to our urban students. Support for great teaching sustains great learning. **Donate at www.84web.org**

Future Plans: Transforming the Roof Garden into the PS 84 Fresh Air Lab

PS 84 has a 2nd floor rooftop space equivalent in size to four classrooms. Our plan is to transform this space into a covered outdoor classroom, a greenhouse classroom, a traditional vegetable garden, and an eco-system science study area. See more at www.fearlessgardeners.wordpress.com

The Urban Roots Mission

Urban Roots was born in 2010 as a pilot program for 3-5th graders to plant vegetables. Last year the teachers and administration asked to expand the program to the full 5 grades that would integrate the

Science Core Curriculum. The new Urban Roots Garden Program connects these essential principals:

- Environmental science and wellness concepts
- Vegetable planting, growing and harvesting
- Nutrition, energy and health
- The new Science Core Curriculum standards
- Experiences to enhance literacy and social studies
- Urban Roots Curriculum



Sustaining Great Teaching

The program builds on the knowledge and expertise of the science garden specialist, like a librarian in the library or a math teacher in the math lab. Following a cross-disciplinary approach, this specialist co-teaches with classroom teachers. This valuable experiential learning method isn't yet supported in the traditional school budget—that is why your donation is crucial.

Cross-disciplinary Program

- The program gives children experiences with nature that activate their science, literacy, math and social studies work at school.
- Thirty percent of the Science Core Curriculum covered in grades K-5 involves plants, ecosystems, growth, energy, nutrition, and health.
- The Urban Roots Curriculum links science learning with the garden experience.



Rooting Knowledge Deeply

- Children raised in the city flourish in a dynamic outdoor learning garden.
- Students harvest and eat what they grow.
- Garden lifecycles are a study in recycling and resources.
- Children develop life skills while enjoying hands-on learning.
- An open air garden lab affords students more fresh air during the school day.

