

Request for DPAC Funding for the 2015/16 School Year

Use of funds:

- Something else that helps foster parental involvement in the schools, and/or promotes effective communication between schools, parents, students and the community.

Requested by : Quinson Elementary School PAC

Total Amount: \$300

Date Requested: March 7, 2016 **Date Required:** ASAP, but the seminar will be April 19th.

- One time

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Description of request:

We would like to host a seminar for Quinson parents/caregivers and community members on the practise of 'Square Foot Gardening'.

Quinson has had a community garden for a few years, and we the PAC feel that it could be more visible to our parents and community members. Many of our families live in multi-family dwellings where there is not much room for gardens in the yards, or rent their homes and are unable/unwilling to put in a permanent gardening structure. We would like to bring in a speaker and use part of our school's community garden to demonstrate the concept of Square Foot Gardening (SFG).

SFG is a practise where you build a maximum 4'x4' frame on top of the ground, a minimum of 6" deep, lined with landscape fabric. You add a special soil and then mark off square feet with string or thin strips of wood. Each square is planted with seeds or plants as recommended and the gardener is able to grow and harvest large amounts of food from a small space. The garden can be dismantled and moved with the family relatively easily if need be.

It is our hope that the addition of this portion of the community garden, as well as its actual use in the seminar, will give parents/caregivers and community members an interest and investment in the school's garden. We also hope that it will encourage conversation between those who attend and even increase interest in the PAC as a group that does more than fundraising.

How will parents benefit from this funding?

Parents will benefit by learning a gardening technique that is easy and productive. They can easily use SFG to provide healthy, inexpensive, fresh food for their families in the future. It is also an easy technique for children to take part in, so families can do it together.

We are requesting funding to purchase supplies to put on the seminar (replacement soil and seeds for the demonstration portion of the community garden) as well as free draw prizes. We would like to have two complete SFG kits (including soil, seeds, wood frame, dividers and landscape fabric), as well as two books on Square Foot Gardening and some collections of seed packets as draw prizes. Supplies for the SFG kits would cost approximately \$115 each, community garden replacement soil will be approximately \$60, books are \$20 each, and seeds will run around \$45 for two prize packs and the community garden demonstration. A DPAC grant would help cover most of this cost.

Our speaker is donating her time, the school is copying her handouts and the labour to make the SFG kits will be donated as well. We already have significant interest and hope for a smashing success!

Thank you for your time.