

## **TOUR OF NDE GARDENS, FALL 2012**

### **LOCATION: Front of the school**

#### **California Natives Garden**

This garden was installed in 2009 and replaced a lawn area. The plants in this area can survive on low water and there is a drip irrigation system instead of sprinklers to help conserve water. The purpose of this garden is to show a few of the many types of native plants that do well in our area and that help to conserve water in the landscape.

This area includes the large DEERGRASS plants (*Muhlenbergia rigens*) that were used by Native Americans for basketry and several types of NATIVE SAGES OR SALVIAS that have a characteristic fragrance.

#### **Herbsense Garden**

This garden was installed in Spring 2011 with the help of 1<sup>st</sup> to 5<sup>th</sup> grade classes. It also replaced a lawn area with overgrown ground cover.

The purpose of this garden is to grow plants that you can see, taste, smell, and feel. Many of the plants in this garden are culinary herbs including MARJORAM, MINT, TARRAGON, LAVENDER, ROSEMARY, LEMON VERBENA, THYME, and SAGE.  
*\*\*Most of the plants are labeled-- feel free to pick some leaves and share them with your students.\*\**

#### **Parking lot treewells**

Note that we have planted bulbs and California wildflowers in the treewells in the front parking lot as well as in other small areas around campus. The parking lot areas have produced a cheerful and colorful array of flowers each spring.

### **LOCATION: In Front of Science area rooms G-35, 36**

#### **Science Garden Boxes**

This is the original garden space in the school. It was started in 2000 by science teacher Kathy Froman and was renovated as an Eagle Scout project. This is where we grow most of our edible crops including LETTUCE, BROCCOLI, CABBAGE, GREENS, ONIONS, PEAS, TOMATOES, PEPPERS, SQUASH. We used the compost from the lunch waste to enrich the soil in this area. This fall, we harvested basil from the garden and provided it to Student Nutrition Services who will use it in their hot lunch program!

*\*\*Students may taste some cherry tomatoes if they would like!\*\**

#### **Compost corners**

(Note: Since the beginning of the ALL compost program that ships out our lunch food waste to a commercial compost facility, this area has become dormant. However, it can be restarted for use at any time to process leaves and weeds.)

This area is where we dump the lunch compost we collect each day. We layer the fruit/veggies with leaves the garden classes collect at school. We have filled all 5 of the composters by the end of the school year.

New for Fall 2012 is the "ALL Compost" program, where All Lunch Leftovers and milk/juice cartons are collected in big bins during lunch time and sent to a commercial composter. This has meant more of our food trash will be recycled, but less of the food waste is coming into the school composters. Napay Recycling, the commercial composting company, has donated free finished compost back to any school in Davis that requests it through Davis Farm to School.

*\*\*Open the lids of the composters—what you see is leftover from last school year.\*\**