

## WCC Submission

Good morning

We recognise that you have already read our submission which is to have some involvement in the development and maintenance of the children's garden but we have come today to bring some students to share their thoughts about the development of the children's garden. Each child is going to share some ideas they have about the children's garden. What is not evident here is that there is a group of about 30 students behind this group of students who are keen to be consulted and involved in the children's garden. To us as educators, we see some important links to our curriculum. The opportunities this involves for us to be able to make links to our community using the curriculum to provide real life meaningful experiences for our students.

### **Benefits to Kelburn (ISABELLA C)**

We would love to be part of a group which helps inform the staff at the Botanic gardens about what children would like to see. At the moment because we have lots of building issues like leaky buildings, asbestos, and earthquake strengthening a lot of our playing and learning spaces are closed off. Our school didn't have a lot of playing spaces anyway but now we have only about half the original space. We don't have any grass to play on and we like to come and make use of Magpie lawn as much as we can. We would love to use this space more but it needs toilet facilities. Had you thought of promoting an eco toilet there?

Our gardening club is really keen and we were meeting once a week, but we can no longer do it because our gardening area is now out of bounds due to asbestos.

### **What we feel we can learn from being part of the children's garden? (SALLY)**

We think that being a part of a city garden is great as we can be exposed to other plants and learn things from experts like knowing the difference between plants and weeds. Being able to pop down to the botanic gardens one lunchtime a week mean that we get the chance to get our hands dirty and do practical things like gardening and how to plant properly. One thing we need to learn more about is how to be sustainable and eco friendly and this could happen through the gardens. Our teachers are always looking for places in the local community that they can take us to and we visit the gardens a lot. Some of the students at KNS like to base or science fair investigations around plants. I did my investigation on the best ways to kill gorse, so to have a resource that we could go to may encourage even more of us to explore botanics as an interest.

### **We have great ideas that we can offer (SOPHIE)**

A children's garden is exciting to us because we have lots of ideas about gardens that we can't put into practice. Ideas we have are: a senses garden, so having gardens that focus on touch, smell and taste, themed gardens like quilted gardens and maybe on a topic like Alice in Wonderland or Charlie and the Chocolate factory.

I have been to a few different botanic gardens overseas and I think we can get some great ideas from around the world. ( Talk about Maine gardens, prehistoric garden, using art in the gardens)

We can also have signage that is designed by kids and maybe audio and visual links like at Te Papa

**How we feel we can help other children (ISABELLA K)**

We would like the children's garden to be a learning area for all schools not just the students at KNS, but maybe by having a school who is the guardian of the area we can encourage, by example, other schools to be more involved also.

One idea we had was to run a competition to design a garden with the winning entry getting to have their design created. We could also help to design school holiday programme classes where kids get to design gardens, bird feeders and birdhouses etc. We would like to offer our services as guides if there was a need. We also do a rogaie course using the botanic gardens and perhaps we could share our courses with other schools.