

# Birmingham School takes GROWING to a New Level!

Pierce Elementary School of Birmingham is the proud recipient of a Vegetable Garden from a new local non-profit. Little Green Gardeners, a non-profit 501(c)3 organization, is building a garden for the students to cultivate and learn from.

**Little Green Gardeners** was created in 2011 by California native Kristen Taylor Urcan who now lives in Birmingham, Michigan. The organization donates vegetable gardens to local schools in the Oakland County area. Their mission is to teach elementary-level students the importance of gardening for their educational, environmental, physical and emotional health.

*"I formed Little Green Gardeners because I love the way that growing vegetables brings a sense of accomplishment and gets me excited about eating healthy, and I really wanted to share that with today's youth. When I approached Pierce Elementary with the idea, they were really excited about it, and they envisioned all of the subjects that a garden can help teach through hands-on experience, such as science, math, etc. " ~ Kristen Taylor Urcan*

The local effort is getting everyone involved! Students, parents, teachers and school staff are coming with shovels, strong hands and giving hearts to build the garden together on Saturday, April 21<sup>st</sup> from 1 – 4 p.m. at Pierce Elementary.

Local businesses are jumping in to help too. **SiteScape, Inc.** of Utica Michigan is creating the cedar raised garden beds and installing the picket fence. Owner Kevin Endres was excited for the opportunity. "We have been looking for a way to give back to the community using our skills. We also wanted to make an impact on a local level where we knew it would help the most. Little Green Gardeners is all about being Green, from promoting sustainability to showing how plants can beautify an area."

Wiegand's Nursery of Macomb, Michigan is donating the planting soil and vegetation. Pierce Elementary neighbor's Bank of Birmingham are donating \$1000 towards the picket fencing as well.

Growing a vegetable garden has countless benefits including encouraging healthy eating (children are more likely to be excited to eat and try vegetables they have grown themselves), helping the environment (plants provide oxygen and you save a gas-fueled trip to the store), getting kids out of the house to do an activity that is both physically and mentally healthy, creating a labor of love that both adults and children can be proud of, and providing an activity that brings a group together for a combined effort. Finally, gardening teaches us to be patient. A garden takes time to grow, and takes nurturing and love. And when that first tomato finally appears it's like a miracle, and we know that all our efforts were worth it!

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Little Green Gardeners is located in Birmingham, MI. Their website is [www.littlegreengardeners.org](http://www.littlegreengardeners.org)

SiteScape, Inc. is a Landscape Design and Construction company servicing Oakland & Macomb counties. Their website is [www.SiteScapeInc.com](http://www.SiteScapeInc.com)