**Herb project for school**

Exciting new project for the school and everybody can join in!

Young and not-so-young can become involved in this project, it means that parents and their children (learners from our school) and even smaller children can come and help whilst enjoying the open-air experience. We also do not expect you to just buy something this time (at least not yet), but we want physical participation.

We have decided, after many hours of deliberation and meetings (almost like the seminars on global warming and an environmentally responsible way of life), on a herb garden located on that small piece of land next to the netball fields at the back of the school.

This small piece of land will be ideal for this purpose as it is close to a water supply point that can be used for irigation. It will however also be out of the way of busy feet and children playing during breaks. All the classrooms on the second floor will have a brilliant view on the spectacular result!

A wonderful idea when we are reprimanded from all directions for our lifestyles which contributes to global warming due to the carbon footprint of ourselves and the food we consume. What can be better than to use fresh herbs, cultivated by our own community – here we are talking about bare footprints and no petrol or diezel used.

If you are still reading at this point, chances are that we can change a bright idea into reality and discuss plans on how to reach our gole.

The first questions were obviously the following:

* Who will be our potential customers? We hope and rely on you to fulfil this role, as our community!
* How do we start a herb garden like this? This is certainly more than just a few plants stuck in the ground and this is why we grabbed a few of our neighborhood nurseries to help us with their brilliant knowledge and advice. Any parent who can offer more of this please contact the school.

The varieties of herbs that we have decided on were selected because they are popular and will make sense from a marketing perspective, but also because they will grow easily.

The following herbs were selected for our wonder garden:

* Sweet Basil - in food, pastas, salads and grows into a beautiful green shrub with small white flowers. Also get a peach coloured variant that makes a nice contrast. Prefers full sun and soil rich in compost.
* Rosemary - in food, dark green shrub with small blue flowers. (Stimulant for all us slow people and can help us to lose weight.) Prefers full sun and soil rich in compost. Spanish variant has straight twigs and people use it to make kebabs.
* Lavender – smells divine, makes potpourri. Bake lavender shortbread biscuits, use in bath water and it will calm you. Use in herbal pillow for wonderful night’s sleep. Different leaf shapes, grey to lilac and different flowers. Nice variety. Prefers full sun and soil rich in compost.
* Thyme – small ground cover type plant. Excellent in meat tishes. Prefers full sun and soil rich in compost. Different fragrances and leaf colours.
* Parsley – very popular but must be planted in a pot or own bed and must be newly planted every year.
* Garlic – although not a herb it is excellent in meat, fish and Mediterranean dishes. Easy to grow. Plant individual cloves of garlic 3 to 4 cm deep in the ground.

It sounds wonderful! These plants will work like a charm and they can also be dried and processed if necessary.

How it will help your child? On a basic level it will bring our children back to the fresh air and it will also, hopefully, ignite a small spark of interest in how the earth works and where our food comes from. This can be seen as a fundraising project, but think WIDER than the obvious and see it as a community eduction project and in-service training for our teenagers for their life ahead.

The learners are going to get practical knowledge of gardening and will be able to apply this knowledge in their own existence. We all hope that our children will be productive members of society and will behave in an environmentally responsible way. Except for the practical knowledge, the community involvement will be an integral part of the project as everybody in the vicinity of the school will gain from the project.

The learners that insist on disturbing their classes by acting in an unacceptable manner, or who ignore other rulez of the school, will get more of these benefits of the herb garden as they will take part in the physical work during detention times. In this way something positive will be generated from their bad behaviour and the hard physical work of the garden will get done! Everybody knows how to remove weeds but will prefer easier tasks like watering the plants and harvesting.