

**As Hal is fond of pointing out gardening never takes a break! Since the students have not been available to garden this year since mid-March, our volunteers have prep'd beds and planted over 140 sweet potatoes for harvesting in October by the new 5<sup>th</sup> grade class. They have harvested 186 lbs of onions, 170 lbs of red potatoes, 56 lbs of yard long beans. Just this May and June alone we have picked over 134 lbs of tomatoes with a chance for much more. Cucumbers, squash, eggplant, and peppers are now being harvested and while cucumbers and peppers are needed for canning we all get to take home much of the bounty that's harvested. The garden looks beautiful so green and lush, thank you all.**

**Last Thursday, we began to restore the butterfly gardens next to the modular teaching units. The area was weeded and the trees pruned to improve air circulation and sun penetration. Cardboard was put down and mulch placed on top to prevent grass and weed growth.**

**Light is now in our orchard shed. While we would like to put electricity into the long shed by the orchard for a dehumidifier and lighting, a light has been improvised by placing a solar motion sensor yard light inside the shed with the solar panel outside to harvest the sun's energy. Light is now available for 60 seconds at a time. One must keep moving to keep from being in the dark!**

**We need to find a source of clean grass mulch for our garden beds. If you know of a neighbor that has a nice yard and has their clippings bagged and removed, maybe we can make arrangements with that neighbor to pick up those clippings for our garden use.**

**The summer session is now upon us and we will invoke a summer schedule to maintain the gardens while volunteers take a rest if they desire. We will try to do a couple of projects during this time but the summer sun has a way of tempering our activity. We will try to refurbish some of the signage, continue to improve the landscape gardens around the school and possibly improve the irrigation out in the orchard.**

**We are looking to find those volunteers that would like to teach a lesson or two during the school year. The lessons are being decided on at this time with the guidance of Mrs. Smart and Mrs. Harisis. A list of the potential lessons have been sent out. Please refer to the manual and see if you might like to give a lesson.**