

Williamsburg Intergenerational Gardening Program

For the past 7 years, Fertile Ground, a grassroots group, has worked with the Williamsburg Elementary School to create a teaching garden at the Helen E. James School that has grown from a kindergarten class project to a full-school program. Each class (pre-K – 6) experiences weekly gardening lessons in fall and spring. We have taught kids how to grow and enjoy eating healthy foods and supplied fresh produce to the school cafeteria and Council on Aging. Parent volunteers maintain the garden during the summer. Students display their harvest at the September Grange fair and each class prepares a dish from foods they have grown for the Harvest Feast, a community potluck held every October.



Fertile Ground has received funding to start an **Intergenerational Gardening Program** in Williamsburg to connect local seniors to the school gardening program.



- Seniors are invited to **assist a garden educator in teaching** gardening lessons at the James School on Thursdays and Fridays during the fall and spring.
- Seniors knowledgeable about aspects of growing, preparing, and preserving food are invited to **lead workshops for students** on topics such as pickling, jam making, seed saving, flower arranging, and more. Workshop leaders will be offered a small stipend.
- Through a community work day, students, parents and seniors will **construct an accessible (raised-bed) Seniors Garden** in spring 2010. Senior Gardeners are invited to use this new space to garden.



This program will allow seniors to share their knowledge of farming and food, offer ways for seniors to continue gardening, provide adult mentors for the school gardening program, and forge lasting relationships between seniors and youth in Williamsburg.

If you are interested in getting involved or have questions about this program, please **contact Sally Loomis at 268-0108 or loomissally@gmail.com.**