September 2014, volunteers build 20 new garden beds at RCF
October 2015, one of 40 families harvesting from their garden
Now, about those school gardens...
Hector Sanchez, Principal of the school is also very handy with a wheelbarrow, as it turns out😊
Garden Build at Madison Elementary School Bridgeport 2014
Garden Build at Curiale School – April 2012
Garden Build at Columbus School – June 2012
Luis Marin School Garden Build – students ‘get it done’
Seedlings ready for planting at Read Schools’ new garden, donated by Sal Gilbertie
Mitzvah Day for the Conservative Synagogue in Westport, held at Read School in Bridgeport
Hallen School – planting in the new garden beds - September 14th, 2012
Planting tulips, October 2011, Thomas Hooker School, Bridgeport CT
Interns teaching about worm composting to summer school students
Worm Compost lessons in the Classroom
The action of ‘pulling a carrot out of the ground’...
...is to realize an unexpected gift from the earth
The experience brings its own level of hope, and a tasty treat!
‘This carrot’s for you...maybe not...’
Raise a carrot!
Field Days at Reservoir Community Farm
Teacher, students and interns after planting spring crops 2013
“Taste of Sunshine”
Challenges in the School Garden: Garden Ignored
“Legislators are passing laws requiring the teaching of elementary agriculture, to the confusion and consternation of the teachers, who are appalled by the vastness of the subject, their lack of preparation, and the apparent difficult of fitting the new course into the curriculum for children.”
# Children's Gardens

For Pleasure, Health, and Education

By

HENRY GRISCOM PARSONS

Secretary and Practical Advisor of the International Children's School Farm League

Director of the Department of School Gardens, New York University

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*OUT OF THE GROUND*
GVI Interns, clearing an overgrown fence at Curiale School
Challenges in the School Garden: Change of Staff
Blackham School – June 30th, 2012
The garden club planting for summer after Spring Harvest. By August they were enjoying squash, cucumber, beans, followed in the fall by carrots, beets, cabbage, kale and broccoli.
Challenges in the School Garden: Pests & Diseases
Challenges in the School Garden: No Time to Teach
“Let’s just say it’s a matter of taste”
Benefits of School Gardens:

Children who are familiar with growing their own food tend to **eat more fruits and vegetables** (Bell & Dyment, 2008), and are more inclined to continue healthy eating habits through adulthood (Morris & Zidenberg-Cherr, 2002).
‘Try it, you’ll like it!’
USDA supports school gardens as a proven tactic for improving children’s attitudes and consumption of produce, and for incorporating experiential nutrition and agriculture education into school curriculum.

School Garden Programs are on the Rise in US Public Elementary Schools, but are Less Common in Schools with Economically Disadvantaged Student Populations
From the Garden E-Brief:

California Assembly Bill 1535 Funds Instructional Gardens for Public Schools

California Instructional School Gardens (CISG)
California Assembly Bill 1535 (AB 1535)
“Flourishing and Nourishing”

Introduced by Assemblyman Fabian Nunez (D – Los Angeles), Speaker of the State Assembly, 2006. Signed into law by Governor Schwarzenegger in September 2006, the purpose of this bill was to provide non-competitive grant funds to public schools wishing to provide instructional school gardens. For complete text, visit:
http://info.sen.ca.gov
SCHOOL GARDEN GRANTS

[Logos of various organizations]
DONORS & PARTNERS – GVI in BRIDGEPORT

AmeriCorps VISTA & FoodCorps
Builders Beyond Borders (B3)
BuildOn
Council Of Churches of Greater Bridgeport
DEEP – Dept. of Energy and Environmental Protection
Fairfield County’s Community Foundation (FCCF)
FoodCorps
Hart’s Seed Co.
Gilbertie’s Herb Farm
Harvard Pilgrim Health Care Foundation
The Hickories Organic Farm
The Home Depot Bridgeport
Main Street Resources
Maura O’Malley, Head of Food Services, Bridgeport
Mayor Bill Finch
Merck Family Fund
Newman’s Own Foundation
Norcross Foundation
Park City Schools and Community Alliance
Partners For Places
Peoples United Foundation
Poko Management
Sacred Heart University
Sunrise Rotary
USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS)
TO SUPPORT SCHOOL GARDEN PROGRAMS, WE:

PLANT
Garden Knowledge and Infrastructure

NURTURE
Curriculum and Teacher Training

CROSS-POLLINATE
Networking and Community Engagement
Madison Wierzel, FoodCorps member, teaches about ‘Plant Parts We Eat’ during a field day at the farm.
Welcome to School Garden Wizard!

Wizard direct
Ask your questions here!

A School Garden offers a wonderful, creative space in which children of all abilities can achieve something real that is valued by others.

Gardening and plant-based learning open a door to discovery of the living world. It stimulates even as it focuses and calms. Within the school environment, a garden offers an unparalleled platform to help kids achieve learning goals in ways that are recommended by the National Science Standards and most state and local educational bodies.

A School Garden requires a child’s intellectual, emotional and social engagement with things that must be measured, counted, weighed, arranged, planned and cared for. It can yield gratifying and often surprising results for you and your students.