

Brooks Elementary School starts a community garden; seeks input from locals



Six New Bedford Schools are hosting garden kick-off events, focused on creating their outdoor classroom/community garden.

Grow Education's (Grow) mission is to cultivate edible schoolyards in the New Bedford public schools. Grow offers teachers the opportunity to engage and collaborate through retreats and workshops, focused on enhancing community partnerships as well as incorporating garden-based learning into curriculum. Through the creation of school-based gardens, we hope to increase accessibility to locally grown food and strengthen community collaboration.

Six New Bedford Schools are hosting garden kick-off events, focused on creating their outdoor classroom/community garden. These family focused kick-off nights aim to engage the school community in the planning process of the garden. We are

seeking input from school neighbors, teachers and families. By the end of the night, we hope to have a list of desired produce to grow and ideas for artistic elements to be incorporated into the garden design. We are pleased to have local farmers in attendance who will act as growing consultants throughout the year. These events are open to the public, community members are encouraged to attend.

School Garden Kick-Off Nights:

- Gomes Elementary School: October 16th at 6pm
- Renaissance Elementary School: October 17th at 3:30pm
- Pacheco Elementary School: October 21st at 5:30pm
- Rodman Elementary School: November 6th at 5:30pm
- Carney Elementary School: November 20th at 5:30pm

For additional information on the kick-off events or Grow Education, visit <http://www.marioninstitute.org/programs/grow-education> or call the Marion Institute, 508-748-0816 and ask for Grow Education Program Manager Zoe Hansen-DiBello. Grow Education is a program of the Marion Institute.
