



To: Community Events/Gardening/Schools

**RELEASE DATE: IMMEDIATE**

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**SCHOOL GARDEN NETWORK OF SONOMA COUNTY**  
**ANNOUNCES**  
**GRANT RECIPIENT SCHOOLS**  
**FOR 2009-2010**

*Santa Rosa, California* -- The School Garden Network of Sonoma County (SGN) awards a total of \$16,000 to four local schools for the 2009-2010 school year.

Two 'Garden-Based Education' grants of \$5,000 each are awarded to Apple Blossom School in Sebastopol and McKinley Elementary School in Petaluma to help pay Education Coordinators to develop and implement instructional garden programs. SGN also provides \$500 to each school to attend the five-day summer residential School Garden Teacher Training Program at Occidental Arts & Ecology Center.

As part of its efforts to encourage nutrition education and healthy eating, SGN also awards a 'Cooking From the Garden' grant of \$2,000 to Healdsburg Elementary School, and a 'Salad Bar' grant of \$4,000 to Harmony Elementary/Salmon Creek School in Occidental. These programs increase student consumption of fresh produce from the school garden and local farms, develop students' skills in preparing healthy meals, raise awareness of local food systems, and support local agriculture.

This is the third year that SGN, a non-profit organization, has awarded grants to help improve school food options. Oak Grove Elementary School in Graton received \$6,000 from SGN from 2007-09 to implement a school salad bar for its 330 students. This program is now self sufficient through fundraising by the school.

SGN has granted \$70,000 to 12 schools since its inception in 2003. SGN programs are made possible by generous support from individuals and businesses, including Exchange Bank, Community Foundation and Kendall-Jackson Wine Estates. The annual Kendall-Jackson Heirloom Tomato Festival (Saturday, September 12, 2009 from 11am - 4pm) donates a portion of the proceeds to SGN. Tickets: <http://www.kj.com/events/tomato-festival/>.

For more information, contact: [info@schoolgardens.org](mailto:info@schoolgardens.org) or [www.schoolgardens.org](http://www.schoolgardens.org).

*The School Garden Network is a non-profit organization. Donations support our development and educational programs.*