



The School Garden

The Garden We Made
by
Cathal O'Halloran

Mr. Corcoran's Class

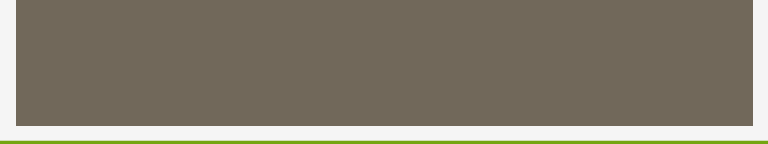
How it began

There was a small patch of unused grass outside our classroom. Mr. Corcoran suggested that we could turn it into a school garden.

We began by measuring the area, it was 6m x 4m and the soil was extremely rocky. We decided to put a fence around it so we needed 8 stakes which we spaced 2m apart.

The making of the garden

- We used a heavy crowbar to help us dig holes for the stakes. This was extremely tough work as the soil was extremely rocky. We used a line and level to ensure the stakes were laid out in a straight line and a sledgehammer to drive the stakes. We used 3 x 2" timber as batons and we screwed them onto the stakes to allow us to attach the fencing. We used the level to make sure they were straight.



Mr. Corcoran stripped down old pallets and brought them into school. We created a template using a semi-circle and Mr. Corcoran used a jigsaw to cut the timber while we used sandpaper to get rid of the rough edges. We then screwed the boards to the batons using a spacer to ensure they were all even.

Mr. Corcoran made up a gate from the same timber and we fitted hinges and a bolt to it.

After that we began painting the timber. We gave it an undercoat and finally a gloss finish to give a nice look.

Garden Design

- It is a sloped area going from 4ft high to ground level which made our design a little more challenging. We agreed to put in 6 raised beds with 2 foot wide walk ways on each side for accessibility. We used 9"x 2" planks as sleepers for the beds and Mr. Corcoran used a Skillsaw to cut the timber while we helped to put the timber in place. It was fun designing the garden and some of us spent our lunchtime working in the garden.

The Hardest Part

- Once we had the timber in place we applied a few coats of creosote to it before filling it with topsoil. Mr. Clifford helped us to source a few trailers of topsoil which was dumped next to the library. It was tough work shovelling the soil into a wheelbarrow and drawing it around to the back of the school. We used a 9" x 2" board as a ramp to help us wheel the barrow into the garden before dumping it into each bed. It required a lot of teamwork and it took a few days to complete. It was easy to sleep at night after an exhausting day!

The Plants

- Finally we were ready to plant. Everyone in the class brought in a plant for the garden and we were all able to plant our own. Kathleen our SNA brought in some tarp that we used to cover the soil and we used a knife to cut it for planting. I brought in some compost for the plants and we all contributed to the project. We brought in pebbles and used some stones from around the school for the walkways. We managed to finish the project before the holidays. It was great fun.