



# Henderson College

Foundation – Year 10

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Wednesday, 17 June 2020

## **Garden Specialist Job Description** **The Kitchen Garden Program at Henderson College**

Our mantra is *Growing, Harvesting, Preparing, Sharing.*

The aim of the Kitchen Garden Program is to introduce young children to the wonderful world of good food by means of developing a productive food garden, and an exciting kitchen that includes a nurturing place to share food, as an integral part of the school curriculum. We hope to engage the curiosity of the young students and to help them learn how to grow the very best food in the very best way, how to care for it in the garden, how to recognise when it is ripe and at its best, how to prepare it easily and enjoyably, and how to develop an expanding culinary palate and be excited by all of these experiences. We want to convince children to modify their eating habits because the food they are experiencing tastes so good rather than because they are being told to eat some foods and not to eat others.

The best of all possible worlds would be to engage the classroom teachers, the providers of food elsewhere in the school, the parents and the community to all become excited by the possibilities this Program offers.

*On taking up the position you will:*

- Attend regular meetings of the Kitchen Garden Program committee at **Henderson College** to facilitate the vegetable garden component of Kitchen Garden Program, problem-solving and planning of special days, publicity for Program etc.
- Plan weekly classes ensuring they are applicable to all participating age groups. This involves preparing up to five activities per class, creating a syllabus and preparing materials.
- Facilitate classes with the aid of the Kitchen Garden specialist teacher assisting in behavioural issues.
- Be involved with Kitchen Garden specialist teacher and students in the development of the syllabus through formal and informal discussions.

- Plan the planting of the vegetable garden and involve the students in the process.
- Plan the development of the vegetable garden infrastructure – incorporating the pre-existing vision – and involve the school community in the process.
- Document suggested garden changes and provide to landscape designer.
- Assist with documentation of the project by recording comments on classes, collecting worksheets, class surveys, photographic documentation, weekly records etc.
- Be resourceful about obtaining items needed for the garden – receive donations when possible, scavenge (!), or purchase within budget guidelines.
- Work in the garden doing general gardening tasks like weeding, pest control and completing jobs not finished by students, as well as maintaining equipment.
- Communicate any maintenance matters to either the school groundskeeper or the maintenance worker.
- Coordinate and support garden volunteers, compile and update volunteer information, help coordinate volunteer events, advertise for volunteers, respond to interest from potential volunteers.
- Provide encouragement, advice and inspiration to other schools by facilitating group tours and school excursions to the kitchen garden, giving presentations and responding to phone calls and emails.
- Liaise with the wider community and nurture relationships with those donating goods to the kitchen garden.
- Liaise with School Business Manager regarding budget spending for the garden.
- Identify and facilitate fundraising opportunities such as co-ordinating the selling of seeds, seedlings and excess produce at suitable outlet, i.e. school market.

*On commencement of kitchen classes:*

- Liaise with the Kitchen Specialist on a weekly basis to inform them what can be harvested immediately and in the future to inform menu-planning.
- Consult with the Kitchen Specialist about their produce requests.
- Liaise with the Kitchen Specialist about ways to integrate the learning in the garden with the learning in the kitchen.
- Harvest produce for kitchen class.

Reports to: Principal