

## **SPRING garden activities - 1<sup>st</sup> grade**

It was finally warm enough in early **April** to get the kids out into the garden and do some actual gardening! The class was scheduled to have a visit from the Chef in the Classroom in late May, cooking with spinach. In preparation for that, we planted spinach seeds, hoping some of the plants would be ready to harvest in time for that lesson. We started by talking about weeds, then weeded and cleaned out our assigned garden bed. Then we measured the bed and divided it in half (we are sharing our bed with another first grade class). Finally the kids each took a turn planting a spinach seed, measuring 2 inches between each seed, with 2 rows 24 inches apart. It was **math and science** in action!

In **mid April** we planted sugar snap peas. This is an annual favorite with the kids and they were eager to participate. We measured out a large circle and used a stick to measure 2 inches between each seed. After we finished planting we erected a frame to support the growing vines. It was warm and bright, so we gathered the class in the shade of a large tree and read a lovely book called And Then It's Spring by Julie Fogliano.

Through **April and May** we spent a lot more time outdoors, planting our bed, digging up weeds and generally enjoying the garden. A few weeks later we were lucky to receive some tomato, eggplant and pepper plants from Mr. Wick's 6<sup>th</sup> graders who started them in the greenhouse. The class took turns weeding the bed and planting the new seedlings.