

Laurel Bay Gardens shares dirt on elementary school garden project

The July 8 delivery of three cubic yards of Laurel Bay Gardens' custom-blended Royal Soil compost to Siuslaw Elementary School's garden site was a "dirty" job, but they were glad to do it.

"We turned the shovel on this project on March 28, when we invited all customers to our annual 'free potting day,'" said Laurel Bay's owner Lisa Walter-Sedlacek. "Customers brought their flower pots and we filled them, at no charge, with one of our custom soils, and then planted their flowers or vegetable starts for free.

"For each yard of soil our customers got, we pledged a matching amount toward the school's garden."

Throughout April, Laurel Bay asked its customers to help teach children the beauty and excitement of gardening.

For every yard of its proprietary Royal Soil, Gro-More Potting Soil or Blended Mint compost it sold, Laurel Bay Gardens donated another \$5 worth of Royal Soil to the garden project.

Laurel Bay donated an additional cubic yard of soil and free delivery for a total contribution valued at more than \$200.

"Lisa brought awareness to our community by supporting Siuslaw School Gardens," said Lyza Houlihan, garden coordinator for Siuslaw Elementary



COURTESY PHOTO

School. With her donation of soil, we were able to fill our new boxes so we can expose more students to the values of growing their own garden.

"We very much appreciate her support and look forward to a growing future together."

"We care about our kids, and we love to promote organic gardening, especially

for future generations," said Walter-Sedlacek. "That's why we dig this project. We are thrilled to have provided the full amount of soil needed for the school's garden."

"Here at the Siuslaw School Gardens we are creating a living classroom, opening students' curiosity and endless possibilities," said

Students work the school garden at Siuslaw Elementary School with soil provided by Laurel Bay Gardens.

in the elementary school cafeteria.

"Overall, I think having a school garden is about community, feeling a sense of belonging, team work and self-reliance — all while learning how to grow healthy nutritious food along the way," said Houlihan.

Houlihan. "The kids have been learning how to grow their own food, basic botany and composting.

"Specifically, kids have recently learned how to thin seedlings so the plants can grow bigger and stronger, and how seed spacing is important when planting."

Houlihan said the goal is to use the gardens as living classrooms and eventually produce enough food to serve

"We are growing a future of healthy habits, healthy kids, and a sustainable community," she added.

Laurel Bay Gardens is open seven days a week at 88493 Highway 101.

To learn more, call 541-997-5973 or visit www.laurelbaygardens.com.



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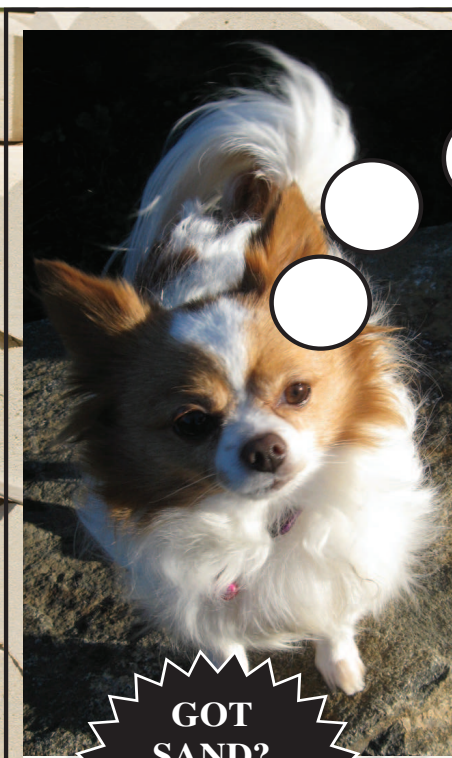
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