**Welcome to the Start with a Seedling Program 2017-18!**

****We are very excited to be able to offer this program with the generous support of you, our community volunteer Garden Buddies, Prince Street School, and the Senior’s Secretariat Grant, this year!

The program will run on Thursday mornings once or twice a month from October 2017 to June 2018 with the kindergarten students at Prince Street School in Charlottetown. Activities will be connected to gardening, cooking, food literacy and environmental sustainability. Further information about this year’s program is available at <www.startwithaseedling.weebly.com.>

**Volunteer Orientation**

We can’t wait to get to know you. A brief volunteer orientation is scheduled from **3:00-3:30 October 5 at Prince Street School**. Please come downstairs to the kindergarten classrooms when you arrive at the school.

**Volunteer Clearance Forms**

1. Criminal Record Check/Vulnerable Sector Inquiry

All volunteers within the Public Schools Branch are required to submit a valid and satisfactory **CRC/VSI** to the school principal prior to volunteering. If possible, ***please bring your completed CRC/VSI to the volunteer orientation meeting on October 5, 2017.***

A new volunteer at a school must provide a **CRC/VSI** which has been issued no more than 90 days prior to volunteering at that school.

A **CRC/VSI** for a continuing volunteer must be updated every two years.

You must make application, in person, to the local police authority closest to your residence.

* Proof of identification is required at the time of application for a **CRC/VSI**
* A **CRC/VSI** may require a few days to several weeks to process
* The **original** copy of the **CRC/VSI** must be submitted to the Principal with your completed application form.  The original will then be photocopied and returned to the applicant, if requested.

For volunteers **who reside in Charlottetown**, please bring **the attached letter** from Prince St. School to the [Charlottetown Police](http://www.charlottetownpolice.com/criminal-records-check) headquarters at 10 Kirkwood Dr with a photocopy of 2 pieces of ID. (One should be photo ID such as a passport or driver’s license; the other can be any ID, including birth certificate, health card or credit card. SIN cards are not accepted.)

For volunteers **who reside outside of Charlottetown**, please bring **the attached letter** to an [RCMP](http://www.rcmp-grc.gc.ca/en/pe/home) [detachment](http://www.rcmp-grc.gc.ca/detach/en/find/PE). Please call 902-566-7112 or see the [RCMP website](http://www.rcmp-grc.gc.ca/en/steps-obtain-certified-criminal-record-or-vulnerable-sector-vs-check) or call for more information.

1. Public Schools Branch - Volunteer Application Form

In addition to the CRC/VSI, volunteers are also required to complete a volunteer application form. These forms will be available at the volunteer orientation on October 5.

**Tentative Schedule**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Date** | **Theme** | **Location** |
|  |  |  |
| Thurs. Oct. 5 | Volunteer Orientation/ Meet the teachers | Prince St. School |
| Thurs. Oct. 12 | Meet the kids (optional) | Prince St. School |
| Tues. Oct. 17 | Fall Planting | Meet at Prince St. for Trip to Farm Centre |
| Thurs. Nov. 9 | TBA | Prince St. School |
| Thurs. Nov. 30 | Cooking Seasonal Foods | Prince St. School |
| Thurs. Jan. 11(Snow date Jan. 18) | Soil Science | Prince St. School |
| Thurs. Feb. 22  | Seed orders | Prince St. School |
| Thurs. Mar. 15  | Farmers visit & Planting seeds | Prince St. School |
| Thurs. Apr. 12 | Signs of Spring | Prince St. School |
| Thurs. May 3 | Spring Gardening | Meet at Prince St. School for Trip to Farm Centre |
| Thurs. May 24 | Trip to Storybook Farm | Meet at Prince St. School |
| Thurs. June 14 | Last Day Celebration Picnic | Meet at Prince St. for Trip to the Farm Centre |

Generally, our activities will be on **Thursday mornings between 8:30 and 12:00.** A few of our meetings will include a lunchtime meal and will wrap up at 1:00pm.

**Volunteer Communications**

Monthly news will be sent out by email, and posted on our new *volunteers only* Facebook page, as well as on our website [www.startwithaseedling.weebly.com.](file:///C%3A%5CUsers%5CMa%5CDocuments%5CGarden%20Buddies%20Food%20Security%20Project%5Cwww.startwithaseedling.weebly.com)

Feel free to contact me, Marilyn Carey, the 2017-18 Garden Buddies coordinator, by email at startwithaseedling@gmail.com, by telephone/text 902-394-6979, or on Facebook.

Please follow [this link for a quick survey](https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSfvEY5XK1893Orm-3GoPiSSmDHpR-zMHvK4lykTs42RbZ14Zw/viewform?usp=sf_link) on your preferred communication method: email, telephone, text or Facebook.