



September 2009

Dear Community Friend,

John M. Palmer Elementary school has been part of the Mayfair community since 1926. With over 950 students, it sits in the center of a Historic Bungalow District, and throughout the years community members and friends have actively supported Palmer by donating their time, services, and many more generous contributions. Palmer has truly become a neighborhood school.

In Spring 2009, Palmer received a “Building School Gardens Grant” from Openlands. Openlands was founded in 1963. Openlands protects the natural and open spaces of Northeastern Illinois and surrounding region to ensure cleaner air and water, protect natural habitats and wildlife, and help balance and enrich our lives. You can learn more about Openlands by visiting their website, [www.openlands.org](http://www.openlands.org). This has been an amazing accomplishment and honor for our teachers, students, and community members as we are one of only four schools this year chosen for this accomplishment.

Palmer’s Openlands School Garden will be installed during planting days on October 8<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup>, 2009. The School Garden will provide a beautiful safe and creative environment for students to learn and play. This innovative project provides two outdoor classrooms that will provide opportunities for our students to learn in a new way. The benches for these areas have been installed and are ready to use. Please stop by to see the start of our progress.

Please join us to make this an even more extraordinary part of our school and the community. We are in need of donations to keep our garden growing. Attached is our “Wish List.” Please consider supplying us with something from the list or with something that you wish to donate. All donations are greatly appreciated.

If you have any questions, please contact us, and we welcome an opportunity to follow up with you in the coming days.

Best Regards,

Don Anderson  
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Veronica DeNicolo  
Bilingual Lead Teacher  
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Christine G. Swiderski, NBCT  
2<sup>nd</sup> Grade Teacher  
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## Palmer's Openlands School Garden "Wish List"

50 ft. Water Hose with muzzle (2)

Osculating Sprinkler (2)

Hand Towels (4 dozen)

Hand Pruners (3 dozen)

Hose Reel (2)

Work Gloves (4 dozen pairs)

50 ft. Soaker Hose (3)

Leaf Rake (2)

Dandelion Weeder (2 dozen)

Monetary Donations to purchase supplies

Volunteers