What a great year it has been in the garden! With summer here, there is never a better time than now to connect with our garden.

If you are interested in joining in but not sure how then come along to our next garden stall on 6 December and have a chat.

There are many ways you can get involved, helping with the chickens, the market stall, watering or weeding at a time that suits you.

A lot of parents find it is convenient to do an hour when they drop off or pick up their child or at a convenient time after work in the cool of the evening.

The garden is a wonderful sanctuary and learning space for our school and our community and it has been the joint effort a great group of helpers. So if you are keen to get involved drop us an email to info@ashburycommunitygarden.org.au

- We will have a Market Stall on Friday 6 December, our last chance for the year. Purchase some fresh organic produce from our garden for your family to enjoy.
- Our end of year celebration will be held in the Garden at 5pm on Friday 13 December – bring a plate and join us!

Please contact us if you can assist the garden with holiday watering or in the Kitchen Garden for 2014 at info@ashburycommunitygarden.org.au.

SUBSCRIBE to our full garden enews by clicking on the link at www.ashburycommunitygarden.org.au.

KIDS IN THE KITCHEN

The bananas in the garden have finally ripened (a year later!) and to celebrate, here’s an idea for what you and your children can do with bananas at home.

**Banana Ice Cream**

*Ingredients*
- 2 small bananas
- 2 teaspoons lemon juice
- 250g mango or any other fruit, chopped
- 125 ml (1/2 cup) coconut milk or cream

Roll the bananas in the lemon juice, place in a container and freeze. Cut the mango into chunks, and freeze.

Chop the frozen banana and mango into smaller chunks. Place in a food processor with the coconut milk and process until the mixture resembles ice-cream. Serve immediately or freeze for up to a week.

>> Check out the Community Garden page on the Ashbury School website for more recipes.

**CHRISTMAS CRAFT**

**Grass Head Elf**

*You will need:*
- Scissors - Sticky tape - Green, red, black and white paper - Toilet roll - Small red pompom - Glue stick - Absorbent cotton wool - Black pen - Small round yoghurt pot - Grass seeds

1. Wrap toilet roll in green paper.
2. Wrap bottom half of toilet roll in red paper to form elf’s pants.
3. Cut out a strip of black paper and wrap around tube as a belt.
4. Using green and red paper make some arms and mittens for the elf.
5. Stick the arms onto the toilet roll.
6. Use a black pen to draw a vertical line to make bottom look like pants, and some buttons.
7. Using white paper, make a face for the elf and stick on to the toilet tube.
8. Add the red pom pom to the middle of the belt using PVA glue.
9. Put the absorbent cotton wool into the yoghurt tub and dampen it with water.
10. Sprinkle some grass seeds onto the cotton wool.
11. Place the yoghurt tub into the top of the toilet tube.
12. In a few days your elf’s hair will start to grow!

**IN YOUR GARDEN NOW**

The rain has arrived at last, and gardeners - and gardens - can breathe a sigh of relief at least for now.

The trees have had the soaking their roots need, and vegetables and lawns are undergoing a belated spurt of spring growth. It’s a bonanza for sowing seeds and transplanting seedlings, with cucurbits (cucumbers, zucchinis, melons and pumpkins) and solanaceae (tomatoes, eggplants, capsicums) high on most gardeners’ lists of summer crops. Cherry tomatoes are a safer bet than the larger varieties which are slow to ripen and susceptible to fruit-fly.

When choosing cucurbits, try to find mildew-resistant varieties that will last the whole summer before succumbing to the inevitable white powder; spraying regularly with 1 part milk to 9 parts water can also help keep mildew at bay.

A variety of legumes can be grown through summer, including dried chick-peas and soy or mung beans straight from the supermarket shelf. Harvesting these can be labour intensive for a small yield, but the novelty is worth it, especially if you have children.

Mulching with straw will safeguard against the hot days during summer and effortlessly add organic matter to the soil during autumn/winter. But most importantly of all while the showers continue, find a dry place to sit and watch the rain fall on your garden.

**PEOPLE WHO HELP OUR GARDEN**

Lynne Keevers and Lynne Dooley (pictured below) have a beautiful organic orchard in Berry. They have been donating a bounty of their citrus since our garden was established in 2010.

The fruit include blood oranges, tangelos, navel oranges, exotic rampur limes, tahitian limes, lemonades, meyer and eureka lemons.

These delicious fruits are freshly picked and donated to the garden to make marmalades, pickles, chutneys, cordials and candied peel which have been sold at our produce stalls and at the fete to raise funds for our school and the garden.

The garden committee would like to acknowledge this generous gift and say thanks as the money we make from this helps to fund projects and materials for the garden.

**HELP OUR GARDEN GROW!**

It is that time again that we call for families to come on board to help us in the garden over the school holidays. Volunteers for helping with chooks to weeding to watering needed!

It doesn’t have to take long - if you have 15 mins or more to spare in the garden a week, then check out the Volunteer Form on our website [www.ashburycommunitygarden.org.au](http://www.ashburycommunitygarden.org.au).