Welcome back everybody!! A special welcome to all those who are new to Portland North. I am excited about spending another year in the garden with all the students.

First I have to say a big thankyou to all the families who ventured out during the holidays to keep an eye on things. Thankyou to those families who ensured the rabbits and guinea pigs had a nice vacation. The farm program couldn’t operate without your support.

Things in the farm are looking great. A bit of TLC is needed but it is alive, fruiting, flowering and buzzing. The Green Thumbs Program will run again this year, and I encourage any grade five or six student to apply. More information will go out in next weeks newsletter. Start thinking about it now, it is a really big committent and we will rely heavily on your continued enthusiasm and expertise.

This year I am hoping to invite parents to assist with various aspects of the program. E.g. overseeing the worm farm, compost, maintenance, and also as guest experts. I would also like to invite families to establish their own plot within the farm if they have the time. If you are interested in playing a larger role in the School Garden Program please indicate so on the form below and return it to the office so I can begin to structure things for the new year.

I will be looking to plan a working bee sometime in the middle of the term, maybe with a BBQ. I will keep you informed.

This term the students will be spending time both in the garden and the art room doing both visual art, and environemntal sciences depending on the weather and the type of activity and outcomes planned.

Again, donations of materials for the garden program are greatfully accepted. We are after good clean soil, manure, compostable hay, reasonable quality hay, vegetable scraps for our worms, food for the animals, letterboxes, and anything else you think we might find handy. So please come and see me if you can help or feel free to contact me via email.

If you are willing to do farm duty on the weekends this year, please fill out the slip in the newsletter and return it to the office.

Thankyou,

Mel

holtz.melinda.k@edumail.vic.gov.au

I would love to put my name on a list of volunteers who are willing to help in the garden in some way.

Name

Parent of

Believe I could help by

Contact details