

St. Laurent school, gardening service launch 'green thumb' program

By Joel Goldenberg
The Suburban

Summit School, a St. Laurent-based school for special needs students, has launched a hands-on classroom program on how to assemble a garden, in a team effort with Urban Seedling, a Verdun-based organic vegetable gardening service.

According to a school announcement, Urban Seedling owners Shawn Manning and Tereska Gesing "will run a hands-on workshop.... The students will maintain their own window box gardens for the duration of the

school year, and eat the produce that is grown."

"We are very excited about this project, which further complements Summit School's goals of educating our students to the importance of ecological awareness and healthy living," said Summit School teacher Heidi Kaplan, in charge of the project with co-teacher Shannon Casey. "We appreciate the ongoing commitment that Shawn and Tereska of Urban Seedling are making to this student community."

"We at Urban Seedling believe that eating fresh, local produce is a crucial part of everyone's future,

including the students at Summit School," said Gesing from Urban Seedling. "The project will empower these students to grow their own food, demystify the challenges of vegetable gardening and make the activity fun for all."

Summit School, which is marking its 50th anniversary this year, serves more than 450 students from across the city, and through General Director Gloria Cherney and principal Herman Erdogmus, has been "encouraging local businesses to form partnerships with the school, and are thrilled to welcome Urban Seedling".