

Jamie Binkley is a gift to Welbourne Avenue Nursery!

Each and every Friday you can see her out in our garden with the children. They will be working in either the community garden across the street - or in the new garden behind the school.

She and her team are there teaching the children how to place the delicate young plants into the garden - while introducing them to the idea of where food comes from.

Our gardening started two years ago, when Jamie's son donated some books to our library. What followed was a conversation about grant-writing, during which Jamie expressed her interest in gardening. And with that, we got into the business of growing our own vegetables.

What began as a single plot has now expanded into a hydroponic garden behind the school, with daddy grow boxes, rain barrels and a soon to be completed outdoor classroom.

The children plant, harvest and eat the vegetables straight from the garden. Parents report that our kinder-gardeners are anxious to lead them to the vegetable department at the grocery store -- not only to identify the vegetables, but to request that their parents buy and cook them at home.

Thanks to Jamie, Welbourne has been awarded several grants that have helped support and expand our "vegetable garden." Recently one of Jamie's team members has started teaching a class on "wellness and healthy eating."

A highlight of Welbourne graduation last year was when one of the children spoke about his career plans. His goal was to become a gardener.

We are honored at Welbourne Avenue Nursery to have Jamie Binkley as our gardener.

Jamie is married to Melissa Davis, they have two children, Katie and John.

For the past 24 years, Jamie has been an employee at Oracle Global Customer Services. She is currently a Customer Success Manager.

To quote our Executive Director, Robynn Demar, "when you see Jamie's smiling face, you can't help but smile right back".

Thank you, Jamie Binkley!