



## Master Gardener Volunteers of Cobb County

## Junior Master Gardeners at Kemp Elementary



**Project Location:** Kemp Elementary School, 865 Corner Road, Powder Springs, GA 30127

**Project Workday:** Wednesday, 2:30 — 4 p.m.

**Project Chair:** Electa Keil (770-919-8910)

**Co-Chair:** Karen Miller (770-427-1423)

The Junior Master Gardener program engages children in novel "hands-on" group and individual learning experiences that promote a love of gardening, develop an appreciation for the environment and cultivate the mind. JMG encourages youths to be of service to others and helps to develop leadership skills.

JMG curriculum in the student handbook. They do projects that are fun and educational with seed starting and planting. Also covered is the environment, diseases, insects and the watershed. All of these reinforce existing school curriculum because they must employ math, science, literature and teamwork skills in practical situations.

The third through fifth grade students at Kemp Elementary in Powder Springs meet every Wednesday between 2:30 and 4 to work towards their Junior Master Gardener pins. They follow the

After classwork, the children work in the extensive gardens behind the Kemp School. Landscaping includes a rose garden, a fenced garden of perennials and a vegetable garden of raised beds that is wheelchair accessible. In addition, the students have won prizes at the North Georgia State Fair for their watermelons, pumpkins, potatoes and popcorn.



During inclement weather, the children participate in indoor gardening and crafts. Snacks are made from what they have grown. Popcorn is popped and everyone goes home with seeds for their yard. At the end of the year they have tomatoes, peppers and pomegranate trees for their own home garden. Sweet and Irish potatoes are also divided between them to take home.

The end of the year is graduation time when they earn certificates and JMG pins. This gives them a great feeling of accomplishment. Some even go on to win 2nd and 3rd year awards.

*The mission of the MGVOCC is to advance the horticultural education and practices of its members and to promote the knowledge of and interest in gardening to the members and to the public.*

For more information contact Carolyn Gentry, Master Gardener Coordinator at the Cobb Extension. Phone: 770-528-4070