



Hour photo / ERIK TRAUTMANN

Brookside Elementary School third-grader Hunter Dumas and first-grader Allison Walsh plant strawberries in the courtyard garden at the school. The garden was established through a grant from the Norwalk Education Foundation and helps with students' math and literacy skills.

## Garden's popularity growing

Brookside School's garden augments learning opportunities

By ANNA GUSTAFSON  
*Hour Staff Writer*

**NORWALK** — Hunter Dumas, 8, and Allison Walsh, 6, basked in the sun Thursday afternoon as they flung dirt from Brookside Elementary School's garden to make room for their tomato plants.

"Planting these tomatoes in the garden is so fun because you get to dig in the dirt," said Hunter, a third-grader at the school.

Hunter was one of about 41 third- and

first-grade students to plant everything from strawberries to spearmint herbs in Brookside's garden.

Students carefully watered their plants and brushed away dirt from their spring attire as they placed the brussels sprouts in the ground, and next year the students will make a salad from what they have grown.

Tracy Sutton, a third-grade teacher at Brookside, first created the garden three years ago, thanks to a grant from the

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