

From: Senator Downing's Press Pass: Week of November 1- 7, 2008

## **Williamsburg School Garden Photo Display in State House Doric Hall**

On Monday, two 6th grade students and representatives of the Williamsburg Elementary School came to the State House and opened a week-long photo exhibit entitled *Snap Peas* depicting the school's model school garden. While posting photos in Doric Hall, Maya Sands Bliss, Williamsburg 6th grader said, "I really enjoy the school garden because you learn a lot about healthy foods and what is good to eat." Enthusiastic about the school's garden, 6th grader Rosa Shapiro-Thompson said, "I really like it! I'm glad we can show everyone the garden and how cool it is." In partnership with the fertile Ground initiative, the Williamsburg Elementary School hosts a farm-to-school program to create awareness around good food, nutrition, and preservation of local farmland through the process of preparing and tending the teaching garden. Additionally, the school uses fresh local farm produce in school lunches, community harvest feasts, farm visits, and classroom cooking. In collaboration with UMass Amherst, Fertile Ground conducted photo research with Williamsburg Elementary School fifth graders during Spring 2008. Those photos were displayed in Doric Hall this past week.