

# GARDEN NEWS

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*Summer, 2012*

Welcome back! The garden is bursting with plants and wildlife to share with students: Send them on a scavenger hunt to find the tall tropical banana, the radish plants gone to seed, giant elephant ears, caveman gourds, heart pea vine, our colorful Coleus collection, and the purple fuzzy leaves of the wandering *Tradescantia*.... Then have them gather around the two new picnic tables to discuss what they found, sketch their favorite plant or insect, or design their own dream garden for spring!



The garden *'literally'* grew this summer: our new stone **Word Garden** contains 50 painted word rocks which students can arrange into poems, sentences or phrase thoughts. Special thanks to Melany Campanile for her work on this project.

**CAUTION:** *Poison Ivy is still growing along the chain link fence in the garden! Please keep students away from weedy areas by the fence. Plans are underway to eradicate it this fall.*

**Reminder:** Please continue to keep the garden gates closed to help prevent deer and other unwanted wildlife from eating plants and stealing our fall harvest. The squirrels have been busy enough knocking down sunflower heads and corn plants...

New this year: **Garden Intake Form.** Our new form allows teachers to request beds or project assistance. Teachers, please fill out the form early in the school year, so we can make sure everyone has the opportunity and supports necessary to use the garden come springtime. **Forms are due in the PTA mailbox or sent by e-mail by Nov. 1<sup>st</sup>.** Please e-mail the garden committee with any questions.

## **GARDEN HIGHLIGHTS ON VIEW NOW**

- **Kindergarten:** Mrs. Cretara's former class planted a pumpkin and gourd patch that is sure to rival Charlie Brown's... see how many you can spot hiding among the vines.
- **1<sup>st</sup> Grade:** Mrs. Comerford's former class planted the annual flower bed and all of last year's first graders planted cucumbers to harvest this month for salads or making pickles.
- **2<sup>nd</sup> Grade:** Ms. Isler's former class planted the beautiful sunflowers along the school wall.
- **3<sup>rd</sup> Grade:** This bed now has beans, broccoli, turnips, carrots, and tomatoes.

- **4<sup>th</sup> Grade:** 'Edible plant parts' are ready for fall harvest: pole beans and purple bush beans (seeds), carrots (roots), chard (leaves). The radishes have gone to seed - come see what the seed pods look like and save some seeds for spring planting. Snap peas have also been replanted.
- **Mrs. Geller's Class** a.k.a. "The Salad Growers" planted radishes, peppers, tomatoes, cucumbers, lettuce and kale. They served Mr. Harrington a picnic salad this summer and will collect radish seeds for next year's garden.
- **Mrs. Horn's 6<sup>th</sup> Grade:** Seedlings of alyssum (flower), tomatoes, beans, basil, and more were grown in the greenhouse last spring and transplanted to their bed.
- **The Tropical Bed** is filled with vibrant colors and textures! Come out and sketch the unusual leaves and flowers: Elephant ears (*Colocasia*), canna, banana, dahlia, hibiscus, coleus, *Tradescantia*, Mother of Thousands (find the baby plants growing along its leaf edges), sweet potato vines, *Celosia*, etc.
- **The Chef-in-the-Classroom** raised bed is cultivating broccoli, beets, basil, lettuce, potatoes, kale, brussels sprouts, delicata squash, swiss chard, tomatoes, and more.
- **Historically useful plants**, such as coffee, pineapple, avocado, ginger, cotton, soy, broom corn, hops, tobacco (ornamental variety only!) are growing alongside some common plants of lesser known historical use: thistle (early settlers used it to stuff mattresses) and mullein (pilgrims used the big soft leaves as legwarmers!).
- **The Three Sisters Bed** has climbing pole beans and butternut squash -- although the squirrels and birds have broken the corn stalks that were planted for the beans to climb.
- **The Herb Bed** is half perennial (strawberry, rhubarb, asparagus, oregano, chive, rosemary) and half annual (dill, basil, fennel, parsley, shiso, nasturtium). Cilantro seeds are ready to collect! Did you know nasturtium flowers are edible and add a peppery flavor to salads?
- **The Sensory Bed** offers interesting smells, textures, colors & shapes. Close your eyes to investigate soft lambs ear leaves, lemon balm, oregano, scented geraniums, lavender, etc.
- **The Butterfly Courtyard** is alive with a wide variety of flowers and pollinating insects.

## LOOKING AHEAD TO FALL

The Philipstown Garden Club's (PGC) newest project is to help update the **Haldane Greenhouse** so that students may start seedlings earlier in the year and grow salad greens in winter. So far PGC has gotten pledges for partial glass replacement, a sink, and proposed new architectural plans for the space. We are excited and grateful to have their support and will keep you posted on greenhouse renovation progress. Contact us if you'd like to help out!

Remember to stop by and join us on **Garden Mondays** right after school. Students, staff, and parents are welcome to assist with weekly garden tasks. We'll also plant more spring-flowering bulbs this fall, along with **cover crops** in the raised beds (such as clover, winter wheat, hairy vetch, Austrian winter peas). Cover crops are often nitrogen-fixing plants -- instead of taking nitrogen from the soil they add it back in. It's another way to naturally fertilize your garden!

And check out the **Junior Gardeners enrichment class** offered Tuesdays this fall by Farm-to-School's own Sandy McKelvey! This after-school class will help maintain the Chef-in-the-Classroom bed.

**Calling all volunteers!** Let us know if you'd like to help add **permanent signage** to the garden (plant labels, informational placards, an official welcome sign, etc.).

## GIVING THANKS to...

- Our **summer watering crew** for keeping everything alive: Kathy Gordineer, Jaanika Peerna, Yvonne Mee, Carina Frantz, Danielle McCarthy, Jackie Wlodarzczak, Lauralee Holmbo, Kacie Chang, Diana Geller, Erin Garrett-Metz, Laurel Rimmer, and Karen Doyle.
- **Grants** from HHLT, along with generous **donations** towards our fabulous **picnic tables**: Carolyn & Dave Llewellyn, Maryrose & Douglass Donaghy, Elizabeth & Mark Villanti, Linda & Anthony Speziale, Kathy & Joe Curto, Miranda Musso, John Peters, Carla Goldberg, Molly Siegel, Karen Kapoor, Danielle & Dave McCarthy, Chris and Barbara DeAntoni, and a few anonymous folk: you know who you are! Also a very special shout-out to **Haldane's facilities crew** for assembling the picnic tables for us.
- Local resident Sara Dulaney for the Native Milkweed donation.
- **Flagler Landscaping** for generously volunteering to keep the garden regularly mowed!
- As always, we are grateful for the continuing support and original start-up grants from the **HSF and HHLT** without which Haldane's garden would not exist...

## DONATIONS NEEDED

- More trellises or lattice pieces to screen the chain link fence for our neighbors' privacy.
- Plant donations: We'd like to include more spring and fall flowering perennials and bulbs if you'd like to donate some from your home gardens.
- Two large decorative pots to frame the school exit door in the garden. Students can help design annual flower displays for these pots each year.

### **Haldane Garden Committee**

Beth Sigler, Melissa Angier, Melany Campanile, Carina Frantz, Lourdes Laifer,  
Diana Geller, Kory Riesterer, Danielle Pack McCarthy

**Contact:** [info@growinghaldane.com](mailto:info@growinghaldane.com)

**Visit:** [www.growinghaldane.com](http://www.growinghaldane.com)



# *Garden Intake Form*     2012 - 2013 school year

\* Please submit forms by November 1<sup>st</sup> by e-mail or PTA mailbox

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**Grade/Class:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Teacher Name:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Contact e-mail:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Please check what you will need this spring:**

Full raised bed

Half raised bed

Shared grade level raised bed

Theme bed (along the school building)  (*note: bed not recommended for edible plants*)

**Do you need help finding a garden parent to assist you?** \_\_\_\_\_

*(note: we recommend you first reach out to classroom parents to see if any are interested)*

**Materials needed? (Pots/Seeds/Soil?)** \_\_\_\_\_

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**Want to speak with someone from the garden committee about your project?** \_\_\_\_\_

**Would you like a copy of the garden handbook?** \_\_\_\_\_

**How else can we help you use the garden? Any suggestions for what you'd like to see planted in the garden? Ideas for how the garden could best support your curriculum?**

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*Note: We will do our utmost to accommodate everyone's needs but garden beds are limited. Classes may need to share beds. Thank you for your interest! To contact us directly please e-mail: [info@growinghaldane.com](mailto:info@growinghaldane.com)*