

# GARDEN NEWS

**Fall 2012**

Fall is a busy time in the garden, with raking leaves and cleaning up beds the primary tasks. But this year, instead of cutting back plants and flower heads, we're leaving most "as they are" so students can explore the garden's "sleepy" phase on sunny winter days. **What can classes investigate during winter?** Seed pods, plant stem shapes (round, square, triangular!), tree bark, animal tracks, evergreens, plants that hold dead leaves, even signs of new bud growth as spring approaches. No matter what the season, nature offers a wealth of exploration for young scientists!

**Garden Mondays:** Fall is also prime time for relocating plants to happier spaces and planting new perennials. The garden committee has rearranged some plants, introduced some new ornamental allium bulbs, and with the help of several classes sown winter cover crops in the raised beds. Haldane students also made **scarecrows, brooms, and leaf rubbings** after school: fun was had by all!

The new **Junior Gardeners** enrichment class has been busy as well. Taught by Farm-to-School's own Sandy McKelvey, the group has harvested veggies from the Chef-in-the-Classroom bed and planted 64 garlic cloves for next year.

**Reminder:** Please continue to keep garden gates closed even during the winter months.



*Notice any dinosaur or caveman 'snake gourds' suspended along the garden fence? These ornamental **Lagenaria gourds** are edible when young but mostly dried for making birdhouses.*

## TEACHERS

When you take students out to the garden, please drop us a quick e-mail to let us know what you saw and did. This will help us spread the word and share successful activities with other teachers, as well as help us apply for future garden grants. Thanks in advance for your help!

**Garden Intake Form:** If you haven't already, please fill out the form so we can make sure everyone has their garden needs fulfilled come springtime. Drop off in the PTA mailbox or return by e-mail. Please contact the garden committee with any questions!

## FALL GARDEN HIGHLIGHTS

- **Kindergarten:** Mrs. Cretara's class harvested pumpkins and gourds from their patch!
- **1<sup>st</sup> Grade:** Mrs. Comerford's students helped move the banana plant into their classroom for overwintering. They dug out all the tropical plants and planted tulip bulbs in that bed.
- **2<sup>nd</sup> Grade:** All four classes toured the garden, learned about garden tools, and took plants and gourds back to their classrooms. Ms. Isler's class planted tulip bulbs then sowed a winter cover crop on top.
- **3<sup>rd</sup> Grade:** Mrs. Pray's class investigated plant parts by studying a carrot, radish, beet and flowers from the garden. They also looked at the reproductive structure of nasturtium flowers (male and female parts) and tried a dye-absorption experiment with white garden flowers.
- **Mrs. Geller's Class** picked herbs from the **Herb Bed** for Cindy to use in the cafeteria (fennel, oregano, parsley, rosemary, thyme, lemon thyme, basil and sage); they're drying herbs in their classroom over winter; and they picked Kale to prepare with garlic at their "Winter Cabin Restaurant" as part of their Project Careers Class.
- **The Tropical Bed** was destroyed by our first hard frost but many of these plants are being stored for replanting next year. Did you know that Elephant Ears grow from a **corm**, Cannas from a **rhizome**, and Dahlias from **tubers**? These underground parts store energy for plants the same way **bulbs** store energy for garlic or tulips!
- **The Chef-in-the-Classroom** raised bed was replanted with garlic by enrichment students. They also harvested (and ate!) beets, potatoes, kale, broccoli, delicata squash, swiss chard and are monitoring brussels sprouts development.
- **The Historically Useful Plants Bed** supplied broom corn for making our scarecrow brooms!
- **The Sensory Bed's** collection of scented geraniums were all moved indoors for winter.
- **The Butterfly Courtyard's** two central butterfly bushes were relocated since they blocked other plants in the courtyard. Three butterfly bushes remain - so the butterflies will be back!



**Garden potato harvest**

In October, Mrs. Moeller's **3rd graders** took a special field trip to Glynwood Farm for their **Chef-in-the-Classroom** program. Farm educator Carolyn Llewellyn gave them a tour of the farm and talked about the different edible parts of plants. The students cooked a healthy fall harvest soup with produce from Haldane's garden (students harvested kale and potatoes the day before) and with eggs and herbs from Glynwood. The following week the soup was served in the cafeteria for the entire school!

## LOOKING AHEAD TO WINTER

The Philipstown Garden Club's (PGC) **Haldane Greenhouse** project is underway! PGC will be painting and renovating the interior over winter so teachers can use the greenhouse come spring. Exterior glass replacement will take place over summer vacation next year. Contact us if you'd like to help out!

Mrs. Cendali's art students will design and paint an **official new garden entrance sign** this winter. We are grateful for their help and look forward to seeing prototypes before the final sign is unveiled this spring!

## **CALLING ALL VOLUNTEERS!**

The garden committee is always looking for people to get involved:

- Help us add **permanent signage** to the garden (individual plant labels, info boxes, etc.)
- Mr. Dudar and Mrs. LeMon would like to build **three new compost bins**. Let us know if you have skilled labor or materials to donate to this project.

## **THANKS AGAIN to...**

- **Flagler Landscaping** for generously keeping the garden regularly mowed!
- **Vera's Farm Stand** for the free bale bale that stuffed those scarecrows...
- **Laurel Rimmer** for perennials (Amsonia 'Blue Ice', Columbine, Lilac 'Blunder').
- **Jennifer Zwarich** for the Autumn Clematis vine, **Yvonne Mee** for large staking poles, **Melissa Angier** for Anemones, **Kory Riesterer** for alliums, **Shannon Keegan** for tulip bulbs.
- **Silvia and Kevin Gaugler** for the two beautiful blue ceramic pots framing the exit door!
- 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 such as Bleeding Heart (*Dicentra*), Climbing Hydrangea, Oriental Poppy (*Papaver orientale*), Witch Hazel (*Hamamelis*) or anything else that seasonally comes to mind...

### ***Haldane Garden Committee***

*Beth Sigler, Melissa Angier, Melany Campanile, Carina Frantz, Lourdes Laifer,  
Diana Geller, Kory Riesterer, Danielle Pack McCarthy, Erin Garrett-Metz*

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

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

