

# GARDEN NEWS

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*Spring 2013*

Spring has officially sprung! So it's the perfect time of year to bring classes out to discover what's sprouting, springing and blooming in the Haldane garden. New labels will help students and staff identify plants.

Big thanks to Mrs. Cendali's art students, who are finishing up work on the official **new garden entrance sign**. We hope to see it installed sometime in June!

We'd also like to thank **Project Careers class** for their hard work making the **laminated plant labels** and poison ivy signs in the garden. The class helped place the labels and learned how to pronounce Latin names. Please remember to beware the **poison ivy area**, which is now roped off and clearly marked thanks to these students!

Join us for **Garden Monday** every week right after school for a fun and free family garden activity. No registration required, simply stop by! So far projects have included making wind chimes from found objects to scare off birds, creating 'seed' cakes for planting, hunting for seedlings to transplant into homemade planters, and helping to construct the outdoor 'willow house'. More to come...

**'Raising a Green Roof'**: We'd like to thank everyone in the community who has donated funds towards the **new green-education shed** through our seed sale, our dance party, the PTA Mother's Day plant sale, or by sending in checks. Thanks to your generosity we've almost matched the **Haldane School Foundation grant** and hope to begin building this summer! We're now looking for community members willing to get involved through labor and/or material donations for construction. Special thanks to local author **Jean Marzollo** for her generous donation to the project.



## **Eco Night**

Notice something new hanging around the garden this spring?! Haldane 1<sup>st</sup> graders made recycled planters out of old tires, tin cans, and rain boots!

In celebration of Eco Week, many other grade levels came out to tour the garden, investigate compost, write poems, and sow seeds in the class beds.

EcoKids planted a native garden with help from HHLT educator Cathy Bakker; while the garden committee helped kids decorate recycled planters, then plant them with mini herb and flower gardens to take home.

## WHAT THE CLASSES HAVE BEEN UP TO...

- **Kindergarten:** Mrs. Cretara's class is growing sugar snap peas on a bamboo tee pee trellis.
- **1<sup>st</sup> Grade:** Ms. Comerford's and Ms. Faella's classes have tended the garden weekly, learning what it means to care for plants, how to identify them by name, even what photosynthesis means. All the classes have planted several different spring vegetables, including peas, radishes, beets, and lettuce.
- **2<sup>nd</sup> Grade:** Classes will plant cheery sunflowers! Ms. Isler's class planted gladiolas and dissected tulip bulbs. They also looked at root structures that store plant energy: corms, bulbs, tubers, rhizomes.
- **3<sup>rd</sup> Grade:** Students planted three "giant cabbages" to represent the three classes, and each student took one home to grow for the competition. They've also designed square foot plots in the class bed.
- **4<sup>th</sup> Grade:** Classes planted vegetables with edible plant parts, such as roots, seeds, leaves.
- **Project Careers:** This class will plant a 'rainbow garden' of colored beans, peppers and carrots.
- **Spanish:** Mr. Ribeiro's 8<sup>th</sup> grade class went on a scavenger hunt for edible garden plants. His students then wrote Spanish recipes for dishes using the ingredients they found!
- **Farm to School:** Sandy McKelvey's Junior Gardeners enrichment class planted sugar snaps, lettuce, radishes, spinach, kale, broccoli, and baby purple potatoes. Garlic scapes will be ready for harvest soon! Visit [www.hvfs.org](http://www.hvfs.org) for more info about Haldane's Farm-to-School program.

## LOOKING AHEAD TO SUMMER and beyond...



Golden Columbine OR  
*Aquilegia chrysantha*

Before school finishes, the garden committee will replant **theme beds**: the banana plant will move back outside to the tropical bed; a Dr. Seuss bed of uniquely shaped plants will emerge; the Three Sisters bed will boast more corn (to counteract the hungry squirrel effect); and the sensory/useful plants bed will get a makeover.

With help from Laurel Rimmer, Ms. Windel's 4<sup>th</sup> graders will also plant two **new container gardens**: an aquatic water garden with fish, snails, and plants, and a carnivorous garden lurking with venus flytraps, pitcher plants, and more.

Thanks to committee member Carina Frantz, the garden will also be home to a **living 'willow room' fort** made of branch-walls filled in by climbing vines. Once rooms are constructed students can explore the structure by crawling through or sitting inside!

The **Haldane MS Greenhouse** will be ready for use next year, thanks to **Philipstown Garden Club** (PGC) and **Haldane's facilities crew**. Haldane staff did extensive work renovating plumbing and electric systems, as well as building the movable plant carts. We are lucky to have such skilled and talented individuals at our school! By using the greenhouse during the cold months of the year we hope to extend the garden's growing season for students and teachers.

## **WANTED!**

Volunteers needed to water and weed the garden over summer. Families can sign up for week-long shifts and harvest any produce ripe for picking. Please contact us if interested.

## **SPECIAL THANKS go to...**

- **Flagler Landscaping** for keeping the garden regularly mowed.
- **Mike Twardy** for coordinating the Shade Haldane Tree project and **Tony Stronconi** for removing the tree stump in the garden and digging the Shade Haldane playground tree holes.
- The many volunteers who helped us shovel compost donated by **Elizabeth Healy** and the truck loan from **Glynwood** that made transport possible.
- **Dar Williams** for seeds and garden trellis; **Jennifer Zwarich** for rambling rose; **Laurel Rimmer** for willow branches and many fantastic plants; **Terry Kiter** for removing poison ivy; and **Sandy McKelvey** for the decorative clay garden pots.
- **PGC** and **Haldane's facilities crew** for greenhouse renovation work, with thanks again to **Tony Stronconi** and **Mike Twardy** for their extensive help.
- **Candace Cole** and **Susan Kenny** for all their help with the Dance Fundraiser.
- **Kathy Gordineer** for coordinating the PTA Mother's Day Plant Sale.
- **Foodtown** and **Yannitelli Fine Wines & Spirits** for water and wine Dance Party donations.
- The continuing support and original garden start-up grants from **HSF and HHLT...**

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

*Beth Sigler, Melissa Angier, Melany Campanile, Carina Frantz, Lourdes Laifer,  
Diana Geller, Kory Riesterer, Danielle Pack McCarthy, Erin Garrett-Metz, Julia Zern,  
Carolyn Llewellyn, Sandy McKelvey, and 'Botanical Consultant' Laurel Rimmer*

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