

# GARDEN NEWS

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**Fall 2013**

October was **Garden Month** at Haldane! Together with Haldane's Farm to School initiative, the garden committee coordinated an outdoor garden activity for each class grades K-4. Highlights below and big thanks to the many Garden Parent volunteers who made Garden Month a success! ---Teachers: a **garden calendar** can now be accessed on our website, please schedule your class visits here. We'd also like to know your plans for spring. Please send us an e-mail or talk to your Garden Parent so we can continue to support your curriculum. ---At last!! We raised the roof on the **green-education shed** this fall! Thanks again to all who donated funds and materials, and to HSF for the generous grant. In spring we will build out the shed interior with cubbies, potting table, tool racks, etc.



## **GARDEN MONTH HIGHLIGHTS...**

- **Kindergartners** explored the garden like scientists by using their five senses. They smelled, touched, and tasted plants, investigating many different plant textures, shapes, colors, and sizes, especially from the unusual Dr. Seuss Bed. Students also collected items from the garden to determine if living or non-living.
- Haldane **First Graders** read Eric Carle's *The Tiny Seed* and explored different seedpods such as milkweed 'parachutes', marigold pods, sunflower heads and Heart Pea seeds. Students folded and labeled their own origami envelopes for seeds they collected, to be planted in spring.
- **Second Graders** did some fall clean-up and planted tulip bulbs, all while doing math: they measured sunflower stalk height, compared and contrasted different underground bulb structures (rhizomes, corms, tubers), and estimated how deep to plant bulbs (3x the height). Come spring, they'll measure and chart growth of their tulips.
- Every fall **Third Grade** studies plant parts. Students brought clipboards, ipads, and diagrams outside, breaking apart flowers to label stigma, style, anther, filament, petal, etc. They learned to differentiate complete (male and female) and incomplete (only one sex) flowers and looked at different plant 'body' parts: root, stem, leaf, flower, seed.

- For their Native American unit, **Fourth Graders** studied the Three Sisters Bed, reading the Iroquois legend explaining why corn, squash, and beans were grown together. They shucked dried corn, pounding it into cornmeal with mortar & pestle, and identified plants from the Useful Plants Bed. Students also studied common plantain weed, which Native Americans called the "white man's footprint" since it grew in compacted soils, along roads settlers traveled. Classes who had their **Chef in the Classroom** activity (featuring corn) made Native American Corn Succotash, served the following week on **National Food Day**, October 24!



*Clockwise from top: Garden Parent Alex Dubroff introduces the Dr. Seuss Bed, 1<sup>st</sup> graders with clipboards in the living 'vine fort', Kindergartner Marissa Peters uses her sense of smell, 4<sup>th</sup> graders Joia McKelvey and Ezra Beato grind corn by the 3 Sisters Bed.*

## Where DO all those plants go during winter???

- Mrs. Comerford's classroom overwinters the banana plant.
- Mr. Wick's 6<sup>th</sup> graders are caring for many plants in the **greenhouse** this year: aloe, avocado, geranium, bougainvillea, mother-of-thousands, ginger, coleus cuttings, etc.
- Mrs. Windels' 4<sup>th</sup> graders will care for Dorito, the fish from the courtyard's aquatic garden.
- Principal Harrington is tending the Hibiscus tree in his office.
- Garden Committee members overwinter the rest of the garden's tropicals, tender perennials, and root tubers in their homes and basements.

Sandy McKelvey's **Garden Café enrichment class** planted garlic, sunchoke, crocus, and daffodil this fall. They harvested herbs and vegetables to make snacks fresh from the garden: salad, pesto, swiss chard wraps, and french fries!



**Spinach** (scientific name *Spinacia oleracea*) belongs to the Amaranth plant family. Mr. Wick's class has started seedlings in trays in the greenhouse this fall and students are measuring daily growth. With some luck, the spinach can be harvested and served in the Cafeteria's salad bar!

**HELP NEEDED!** Please contact us if you can help build out the shed interior, install an outdoor sink, or design and construct a courtyard **Pergola** for growing vines and gourds!

## **THANK YOU to...**

- **Garden Parents** Sandy McKelvey, Jane Ponton, Jeannine Harris, Cindy Cohen, Heidi Stephens, Peter Sanders, Daniel Kelly, Mary Ietaka, Melany Campanile, Carolyn Llewellyn, Carina Frantz, Candace Cole, Melissa Angier, Chrissy Bernstein, Alex Belniak, Tara O'Sullivan, Krista Osborn, and Laura Fina.
- BOE Trustee **Jennifer Daly** for the charitable 'Birthday' donation to the garden fund.
- Dale & Sherman Anderson from **Custom Forest Products, Inc.** for building the Ed Shed.
- **Kacie Grossman** for the Sunchokes, **Jennifer Zwarich** for the brand new shed window.
- **Mrs. Thomas**, Haldane's Librarian, for *Mirabilis jalapa* (Four O'Clock Flower) seeds.
- The continuing support and original garden start-up grants from **HSF and HHLT**...

### **Haldane Garden Committee**

*Beth Sigler, Melany Campanile, Carina Frantz, Diana Geller, Kory Riesterer, Yvonne Mee, Danielle Pack McCarthy, Carolyn Llewellyn, Sandy McKelvey, and Laurel Rimmer*

**Contact:** [info@growinghaldane.com](mailto:info@growinghaldane.com) **Visit:** [www.growinghaldane.com](http://www.growinghaldane.com)