

GARDEN NEWS

Summer 2015

Welcome back Haldane students, parents, teachers and staff! We hope everyone had a wonderful summer spent outdoors as much as possible! We know many families stopped by to spend time in the school garden this summer or simply strolled through on their way to the playground and blacktop. It's thanks to volunteers that the garden survived the hottest days of summer – we are so grateful to the families who sign up to spend a week watering plants and caring for Dorito the fish when school is not in session. The garden committee is also busy behind the scenes mowing, weeding, deadheading, pruning, and staking plants all summer long to make sure teachers and students have a garden to use come fall.

We've had some unwelcome visitors this summer too: deer ate most of the carrots and munched much of the Bok Choy and cabbage in the China Bed. There's a groundhog living under the Ed Shed that we also failed to trap, so we can't be sure he or she isn't the one doing the damage! It's a reminder that we share the garden with many living creatures, some more beneficial than others... hummingbirds were spotted sipping nectar from Jewel Weed alongside many other bee and butterfly pollinators. The garden is also home to predatory insects like Praying Mantises (Mantodea) and herbivorous insects like Walking Stick Bugs (Phasmatodea).



STICK BUG



MANTIS

We hope students will explore the new theme bed in the garden this fall: a **Prehistoric Bed** of 'living fossils' or plants that existed back when dinosaurs roamed the earth! Magnolias were one of the first flowering trees to evolve alongside Eudicot flowers (such as primroses). The *Ginkgo biloba* tree (located behind the playground swings) was also an early deciduous (broadleaf) tree. Conifers (needle-leaved trees like pines), ferns, cycads (such as the Sago Palm), Equisetum (a kind of horsetail rush) and early types of grasses in the Poaceae family (such as Bamboo) are also all believed to be plants that flourished alongside dinosaurs!



Summer Highlights

This summer, garden committee members Carolyn Llewellyn, Sandy McKelvey, and Kory Riesterer attended two great workshops on Garden Education. The first was called *Using Gardens to Teach: The Summer Institute for Educators*. This was a two-day, hands-on workshop given by the **Poughkeepsie Farm Project**. The second was *The Agriculture Literacy Academy at Stone Barns Center* given by Cornell's Ag in the Classroom program, also a two-day workshop. Many exciting hands-on lessons were learned that can be easily integrated into ELA, Math, Social Studies, Art, Science, and Health & Nutrition curriculums.



The garden committee was also pleased to have **Elementary School Principal Brent Harrington** join them for the second workshop at Stone Barns. We are honored by his enthusiasm and support for the school garden and Farm to School programs and look forward to sharing what we learned this summer in the elementary and middle schools this fall!

Pictured left: Mr. Harrington beside his group's irrigation system. Groups were given 20 minutes to build a structure out of random materials that could transport the most water the furthest distance - but with no trial runs! Attendees had just learned about different methods farmers employ to water their crops and were challenged to put that knowledge to use.



What else is NEW this year?

The Haldane Garden Website! This totally **remade website** has a user-friendly calendar for scheduling class visits, a huge resource page full of curricular links and grade-specific garden lessons, as well as an archive of past newsletters and print articles, and much, much more! The site has been redesigned to assist both teachers and garden parents in using the school garden more effectively and efficiently. Please take a moment to scroll through the pages and give us your feedback: www.growinghaldane.com.

This school year, Mr. Wick's 6th grade Environmental Science class will be participating in Haldane's monthly **Farm to School** program. Each quarter his students will enjoy a lesson in the garden, a Farmer in the Classroom lesson, and a Chef in the Classroom lesson.

Haldane was proud to participate in the **Made in Philipstown Banquet** at the Garrison Landing on September 5th by donating several bunches of fresh basil grown in the school garden. It was a celebration of makers and growers – a feast of shared riches with food all locally grown in Philipstown. To learn more about this event visit: <http://www.madeinphilipstown.com>.

Cafeteria Bed Update

The bed outside B1 & B2 classrooms is overflowing again for our new **Food Services Manager, Nancy Norton**. Paste tomatoes, basil, and parsley will go towards another Haldane marinara sauce, along with garlic, oregano and thyme from the school garden. And, thanks to a generous donation from **Glynwood Farm**, the Haldane cafeteria also received 100 pounds of juicy, ripe, organic tomatoes! Eileen Caulfield, Carolyn Llewellyn, and Sandy McKelvey washed and bagged the tomatoes for Nancy to use in her delicious tomato sauce on Pasta Wednesdays and for our second annual Community Spaghetti Dinner in October (date tbd).



*Cafeteria Bed
paste tomatoes far
left and more basil
and tomatoes in
the Kindergarten
'Pizza' bed in the
school garden!*

LOOKING ahead...

- Consider being a **garden parent** for K-5 this fall, especially if you have gardening/teaching experience! Download the form from the garden's website and drop off in the PTA mailbox at school.
- Join us in the garden for another fun ABC scavenger hunt and garden tour on Friday, September 11, 3:30 pm, at the annual **PTA Back-to-School Potluck**.
- Coming in October: second annual **Haldane Spaghetti Dinner** to benefit our Farm to School program!
- **Teachers:** we want to hear from YOU! Are there garden theme beds you'd like us to plant next spring? Are there curricular topics for your grade level that we can help support in the school garden? Please let us know and we'll be happy to do the research (and planting!) necessary to make it happen.
- **DONATIONS** are always welcome: garden-related storybooks, spare tools, seeds, potting soil, hoses, etc. Please contact us at info@growinghaldane.com to let us know what you have to offer!

BIG THANKS to...

- The continuing support and original garden start-up grants from **HSF** and **HHLT**.
- **John Wayland** for the many hours spent designing the garden's wonderful new website!
- The **Cohen-Hutchison family** for donating another rain barrel.
- **Glynwood** for fall broccoli seedlings and about 100 pounds of sauce tomatoes!
- The many families who helped keep the garden watered this summer: Claudia Dizenzo, Yvonne Mee, Jane Ponton, Chrissy Bernstein, Cindy Cohen, Kathy Gordineer, Diana Geller, Heidi Stephens and Shawna Chandler.
- **Sutton on Hudson** for the garden's lovely new "Grow" sign!
- The wonderful volunteers who helped get the garden ready for start of school: Melissa Angier, Diana Geller, Carolyn Llewellyn, Shawna Chandler, Cindy Cohen, Yvonne Mee, Carina Frantz, Sandy McKelvey, Eileen Caulfield and Claudia Dizenzo.
- **Mr. Harrington** for donning bee antennae and participating in the Ag Literacy training alongside Sandy McKelvey, Carolyn Llewellyn and Kory Riesterer. He was the best busy, buzzy bee of that lesson!
- **Stefan and Rowen Kuzminski** for setting up the rain barrels again.



This is the 3rd year Haldane parent **Carina Frantz** has used willow branches to construct a living vine fort for students to explore! Thanks for all you do, Carina!



**The Haldane Garden
Committee is:**

Beth Sigler
Melissa Angier
Carina Frantz
Kathy Gordineer
Jennifer Zwarich
Alex Dubroff
Fiona Fortuna
Kory Riesterer
Carolyn Llewellyn
Sandy McKelvey
Shawna Chandler



Swiss Chard or *Beta vulgaris subsp. vulgaris*

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