

grow your mind

HALDANE SCHOOL GARDEN

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Welcome back Haldane students, parents, teachers and staff! Although we can see the sun setting earlier each evening signaling fall's approach, the summer heat is still with us and the garden continues to grow in leaps and bounds.



Okra planted by 5th graders.

Do you know the name of this vegetable? Here's a hint: It originated in Africa and was one of the crops brought to America during the slave trade. If you guessed Okra, you are right!

Last year, 5th graders learned that the slave trade introduced many foods that originated in Africa to the United States, and these foods have become part of the cultural tradition of African American cuisine as well as contributing to the overall American diet. Other crops originating in Africa the 5th graders planted were black-eyed peas, millet and watermelon.

Each year, 3rd graders receive a cabbage seedling from the Bonnie Cabbage Program to take home and grow. The cabbage is a giant variety, and kids all over the country compete to grow the largest cabbage. Each third grade class also planted one in the school garden. This one was quite large before a critter decided to snack on it!



Cabbage planted by 3rd graders.



In July, the garlic the 2nd graders had planted last fall was ready to harvest. Over 120 garlic heads were harvested and dried in the shed over the summer.

When the 2nd graders returned this fall as incoming 3rd graders, they gathered up the garlic as well as a dozen or more onions, and presented the harvest to food service manager, Nancy in the Haldane kitchen. She will be adding them to the weekly tomato sauce and many other dishes served in the cafeteria this fall.



In a garden we learn equally from our successes and our failures. After many attempts at planting the 4th grade 3 Sisters Bed – protecting it from the birds, squirrels, deer, and raccoons, the critters finally got the best of it. What can we learn from this and how can we improve upon this activity for a more successful harvest next year?



We have exciting garden news to begin this school year!

The garden now has a dedicated Librarian/Garden Educator. We welcome Carolyn Llewellyn to the Haldane staff and look forward to a wonderful year of growing and learning.



Kindergarteners' first lessons in the garden with Librarian/ Garden Educator, Carolyn Llewellyn.



Our first Chef in the Classroom visit happened right in the garden with Chef Evelyn teaching the 3rd grade a delicious recipe for Tomato, Cucumber and Sweet Pepper Salad with Honey Citrus dressing.

Mark your calendars for Wednesday, September 28th when it will be served in the school cafeteria!



Haldane's school garden has long enjoyed the support of parents, teachers, the PTA, the Haldane School Foundation, and, of course, our students. Hands-on learning in this outdoor classroom has brought curriculum to life as students are immersed in nature, feeding their imagination and spirit.

Haldane's new Library/ Garden special will provide students with the opportunity to experience targeted lessons in the garden that are tied to their classroom curriculum each month to further enrich their learning experience.

Garden Parents will continue to provide further opportunities for students to be immersed in this outdoor classroom.



3rd graders chopping, mixing and tasting



Our willow Fort is getting bigger and stronger thanks to Carina Frantz's work over the summer. Many of the willow branches have rooted into the ground creating a stronger support structure. Come visit and ask your kids to show you around!

LOOKING ahead...

- Garden Parents and teachers – Please continue to schedule visits online via the garden calendar at: www.growinghaldane.com. Carolyn Llewellyn, our garden educator gladly welcomes visits from all.
- Fourth graders have begun composting in the new blue bins. We need donations of “brown” materials: dried leaves, grass clippings and hay.
- Donations are always welcome if you have gardening tools you no longer need or seeds and plants you can't use in your home gardens. Feel free to contact us anytime!

BIG THANKS to...

- The continuing support and original garden start-up grants from HSF and HHLT.
- John Wayland for his ongoing work to update the garden's website.
- Bettina Utz and Lara Eldin for their amazing job cleaning, organizing and animal-proofing the shed.
- All the summer volunteers that kept the garden watered, weeded and beautiful for the community to enjoy upon return from summer vacation.
- Haldane graduate Henry Dul for restoring the antique corn sheller that now graces the garden. Students love cranking it, and will soon use it as they learn about Native American and Colonial farming and living.
- Sam Chew and his mom Tamsin Eva for the donation of a new and less fragile garden gnome.

To learn more about your students' rich experiences in the garden “Like” us on Facebook at: <https://www.facebook.com/growinghaldane/> and visit our website: www.growinghaldane.com and explore this wonderful resource!

The Haldane Garden Committee is: Melissa Angier, Liz Campbell Kelly, Shawna Chandler, Alex Dubroff, Carina Frantz, Carolyn Llewellyn, , Kory Riesterer, , Sandy McKelvey, Lara Shihab Eldin, Bettina Utz, Jennifer Zwarich.

