

Lincoln Garden Notes

Year in Review

September

- Began the planning phase
- Secured funding from WQED
- Planned our monthly Garden Meetings

October

- Students watched a 5 minute PBS video about gardening
- Talk about sustainability
- Students viewed a slideshow of various gardens
- Students worked in small groups to map out what our Lincoln Garden should look like

November

Discuss the importance of having good soil in a garden, composting, and the importance of worms

- The students observed as speaker put together the grade level worm bins
- We discussed the care and upkeep of the worm bins
- Worm Wranglers—students filled out an “application” if they wanted to help care for the worms. Two students from each grade level were chosen from the “applications” and they met with a teacher twice a month to feed the worms.
- Appropriate food items for the worms were collected in the cafeteria every other Friday.

Note: Worms can be fed every 3 weeks instead of every other.

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No Garden Meeting in December

January—University of Pittsburgh Graduate Students

- The Graduate students set up three centers in three separate classrooms.
- Exercise Center—The Graduate Students discussed the importance of exercise and guided the students through various exercises.
- Nutrition Center—The Graduate Students set up tables with plates showing portions of different foods and their calories. The students had to decide which foods were healthier choices.

February

- Introduce students to the services that SHIM (South Hills Interfaith Movement) provides to our community.
- She shared a video about the various garden projects in the area.
- Give an overview of our garden project and discussed the various steps with the students.
- The students brought canned goods to this meeting to donate to SHIM.

March

- Speaker touched on various aspects of gardening: tools, soil, seeds, container gardening, fertilizer, fencing and types of produce that can be grown in our area.

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April

- We met each grade level out back at the tables by the garden.
- Each student had an empty peat pot.
- The students were guided to put soil in their pot and add whichever seeds their classroom was planting into the soil.
- Students took their pots to their classroom and placed them under the grow lights and crossed their fingers.

*Notes: Leave lights on all the time until the plants begin to grow. Then, cover them during the day and uncover and turn the light on at night. Also, be mindful of the room temperature...especially over the weekends. *We may want to use the pads and black bins that came with the grow lights in order to keep the soil evenly moist and avoid drying out the plants.*

May

- Beginning of May, the students mulched the pathways in the garden. We laid burlap/cardboard down underneath to help with weeds.
- First week of May, the fence was installed.
- Mid May—4th Grade students direct seeded lettuces, chard, sunflowers, beans and cosmos.
- The planting trays were put in the garden to get the plants acclimated to the weather.
- End of May, harvest the worm compost.

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June

- The day before planting day, we turned each bed and marked each planting spot with a stick.
- Planting Day was the first week of June.
- On planting day, each teacher brought their students to the garden.
- Each student was given a cup. They placed soil in the cup, then a scoop of fertilizer, then a scoop of worm compost.
- Then, they took their cup into the garden and met a teacher at one of the beds and were guided to plant their plant.
- Classes rotated in every 20 minutes or so.

Notes: Turn the soil in the fall and have it tested. Add soil amendments necessary...our soil was not that great this year. We may want to raise the front four beds for next year...they held a lot of water. Rabbits nibbled the sunflower plants...may need to fence those.

Summer Notes

- A summer schedule was sent out to faculty and families.
- Each week was listed and people could sign up for weeks that they would be willing to come and work in the garden.
- Two teachers took alternate weeks. They would contact their people at the beginning of each week and set up the days and times that they would be at the garden.
- Tasks included weeding, watering, adding fertilizer, staking plants, and harvesting.

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