



What's Growing On?



Hi friends,

The end of August? Wait....what? The summer always flies by but, with back to school comes our fall gardens! I am planting my very first fall garden this year after some mixed results from my summer garden. I have been enjoying cucumbers, tomatoes, beans regularly. I had a few green peppers and eggplant earlier in the season which is better than I have done before! My spices grew well, and I am trying different methods of preservation for them. My biggest disappoints were my corn, zucchini, and sunflower; we had some difficulty with a squirrel who decimated all of those crops! 😞

I also need to do better with my watering, and I am thinking about moving a couple of beds so that they get more sunlight. My garden, like most, has always been a work in progress.

The Spotted Lantern Fly is everywhere! Make sure to teach your students about this pesky insect. While it won't be contained, as I just saw that on the news, we can all remain diligent and crush these insects to help New Jersey crops like grapes which is a favorite of the SLF.

Happy Planting!

Nancy

Growing our presence on social media, follow us:

Facebook and Instagram:

@Learnthroughgardening

Twitter: @LearnTGardening

YouTube Channel: LearnThroughGardening



Upcoming September Events:

7th - Acorn Squash Day

11th - Grandparents Day

13th - Peanut Day

15th - Relaxation Day

22nd - Fall begins

26th - Johnny Appleseed Day;
Rosh Hashanah

28th - Good Neighbor Day

1st Week - National Farmer's
Market Week

National Potato, Honey, and
Mushroom Month!

Important Announcements:

- Best Practice Workshop dates: October 18 for South Jersey and October 21* for North Jersey! *NEW DATE!! You can sign up now....look on page 2!
- Cool weather leafy vegetables will be delivered beginning the week of September 12th.
- If you are eligible, you have completed your first three-year affiliation, please sign up to be an Ambassador School so this fall delivery is not your last. See Page 2 for details! Not sure? Just ask, and I can let you know your status!

Growing our Curriculum!

We are so excited to have been awarded a Farm to School Grant from the USDA. Learning through Gardening in conjunction with NJ Agriculture in the Classroom will be producing a **four-video series**. Each video will feature a trip to the farm where students meet farmers across New Jersey and learning about the sources of their food and about what it is like to be a farmer, directly from the farmer. We want to educate students so that they become adults who work to keep New Jersey green, growing, and nourished. Each video will also have pre- and post-activities to introduce and extend learning.

We look forward to making the Farm to School video series project and see it as the beginning of a rich, new, and expanding learning path for students in the Learning Through Gardening program and beyond.



BEST PRACTICE WORKSHOP:

There will be two presentations of BPW held this year; one located in Northern NJ and one in Southern NJ. The Workshop will cover a variety of topics including composting/vermicomposting, planning and planting, other ideas to keep gardening alive in the classroom. Participants will be building a composter or a vermicomposter to bring back to their school!

Tuesday, October 18 - Best Practice South will be held at Rowan College at Burlington County; 8:30-12:00

Friday, October 21* - Best Practice North will be held at Institute of Food Nutrition and Health** (Rutgers); New Brunswick, NJ; 8:30-12:00.

*This is a new date!!

**Please be advised, that food and drink are not allowed in the room.

Registration is open, now! [Click here!](#)

Join Growing Together! as an Ambassador School

For our "graduate" schools and schools aging out of the program, don't forget to fill out the application to become a Growing Ambassador. This is a three-year affiliation to keep your school garden growing!

This can be applied for after your school has been a Growing Partner School or a Growing Associate School. The application is just an update for our records! All applicants are happily accepted!

[Click here for the application.](#)

Thank you to all our "graduates" who are now Ambassador Schools!

Come Grow with Us!

Spotlight Garden:

Stillwater Schoolyard Garden & Greenhouse



As we are all preparing our classrooms for the start of a new school year, some of us are "digging" into our outdoor spaces and planning for fall gardening! At Stillwater School, we are fortunate to have an outdoor garden space that all children in grades Pre-K through Grade 6 visit and work in throughout the school year. The space includes a raised bed vegetable garden, a pollinator garden, a greenhouse, and a gazebo (which serves as an outdoor classroom).

In the month of September, the focus in the garden begins with sharing and teaching of garden rules. Children also have opportunities to harvest what is ready (tomatoes, cucumbers, beans, carrots, potatoes), weed the garden, and plant cool weather crops. We usually have Monarch caterpillars take up residence on our Milkweed which provides for a wonderful learning opportunity!

A fun way to engage students in the garden at the start of the school year is with a scavenger hunt. Start with what can be found in your garden and create a checklist or chart from there. Provide children time to search for flowers, leaves, critters, pollinators, vegetables, etc. This allows them the opportunity to enjoy wandering around the garden space and closely observing what is living there.

With this start, your students are connected to their school garden and are ready to visit throughout the year, making observations about how the garden changes through the seasons. We visit the garden all year - there is always something to do, something to see and something to wonder about!

Feel free to connect with me via email with any questions you may have about our garden space!
elaine.makarevich@stillwaterschool.net



Great Shots from Stillwater Elementary School



Celebrate Grandparents Day and Rosh Hashanah with your students!

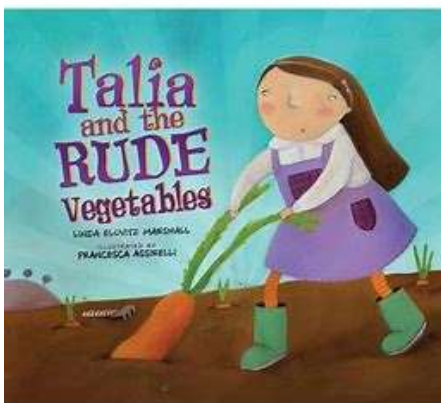
Try these titles with your students:

Talia and the Rude Vegetables by Linda Elovitz Marshall

City-girl Talia misunderstands her grandmother's request that she go to the garden for "root vegetables" but manages to find some vegetables that she thinks are rude, as well as a beneficial use for the rest she harvests.

Follow-up activity: Have some fun with words after reading this book. It lends itself well to a discussion of adjectives, alliteration and even synonyms!

Make stew! There is a recipe at the end of the book!



Grandma's Gardens by Hillary & Chelsea Clinton

Grandma Dorothy shared her love of gardens with her daughter and her granddaughter. She taught them that gardens are magical places to learn, exciting spaces for discovery, quiet spots to spend time with family and beautiful areas to share stories and celebrate special occasions. But most of all, she taught them that in her gardens, her love grew and blossomed.

Follow-up activity: Have students write letters and/or draw pictures of places and things they learned about a grandparent or other family member. Work can be shared with families at Back-to-School night!



