

We finished harvesting (digging) the sweet potatoes from the Annex and the Orchard gardens last week. We harvested 742 pounds of sweet potatoes and will continue to make them available to the students until they are gone. All classes have had at least one bag of sweet potatoes so far. The Annex and Orchard sweet potato beds have now been prepped for the next crops which we will begin to plant this week and beyond. We will finish the root crops lesson set this week and begin the white and sweet potato lessons next week November 12 & 19 just before Thanksgiving break. Our harvested sweet potatoes will have had time to cure for Thanksgiving, good planning gardeners!

The garden is beginning to take on a fall garden look with the collard and kale greens starting to produce. The radishes were the first to produce, and the carrots, beets, and turnips are growing nicely. All the while the summer plants have begun to shut down. The okra for instance has gone from 5-6 pounds of pods every couple of days to under 2 pounds in the same time period. The yard long beans now gone had turned yellow and stopped producing a couple of weeks ago even the sweet potato vines were beginning to look yellowish an indication it was time to dig the sweet potatoes. Take a moment to look at the okra and judge for yourself whether they look as healthy as earlier in the summer.

So far everyone has been doing a really good job while in the gardens. We have been wearing our masks, dressing appropriately for gardening, and most of all working well together, respectfully and joyfully. Maybe you have noticed as I have that many masks are ending up on the ground of the outdoor play area during the day. Please make an effort not to contribute to this behavior. Don't take your masks off and leave them around. In the event you see a mask lying on the ground please don't pick up someone else's mask as it may not be safe or clean. As always continue to wash your hands, wear your masks, and try to stay physically distanced whenever you can.

Stay safe and as always we are looking forward to working together this Thursday,