

Last week we started off with a new class lesson on Leafy Greens. This week is the final lesson on Leafy Greens. While the gardens are really looking impressive with collards, lettuce, kale, carrots, beets, turnips, cabbage, and sugar snap peas, we've also had wonderful broccoli with sizeable secondary heads, spectacular reddish purple and green lettuces, brightly colored Swiss chard, beautiful turnips, and even watermelon radishes that have had to have be harvested. The fall garden is truly in its prime. A special favorite has been the crunching on sorrel that seems to have caught on as a must for all the students. And while we've had a cold snap that did produce some frost our garden has come through without any significant damage. If you look at the cotton near the sugar cane you will see some damage to their upper leaves, the result of the freeze. We started a fall favorite event last week, 'smashing pumpkins', which really is the harvesting of pumpkin seeds used to start new pumpkin plants in the spring. Check the back of your book to see when they should be planted. In fact we found a pumpkin that when opened had seeds that were already sprouting. Another use for these pumpkin seeds is to roast them for snacking on. They are really tasty and as a snack very satisfying.

On Saturday, 12/05/20, a holiday market was held at the Oak Forest Elementary School, the fruition of a fifth grade Project Based Learning (PBL) project. This project was a program sponsored by the fifth graders under the guidance of the faculty and school as a plan to share the remaining inventory prepared by the OFE Growers. The PBL project was fifth grade student planned and executed to share the remaining preserves from the summer gardens. Every fifth grade classroom contributed in some way to execute the plan.

The students also made and sold Christmas ornaments, Christmas tiles, as well as Aloe Vera plants that they had potted up in a gardening class.

The festiveness of the event resulted in some of the parents who brought their students to the event, staying to help with the sale. Thank you for your support and enthusiasm.

It was to be a contactless market, as had been the plan. The students made signs and figured out how to manage the sale. They set up stations behind plexiglass barriers with signs on them for a particular item that was for sale. The customer stopped at the stations to pick up tickets marked with the items. The customers proceeded to the cashier as the student helpers gathered the items found on the tickets and then totaled the sale price for the cashier.

On our website (Bulletin Board) is a short slide show of the setup and event for your enjoyment. A special thank you is sent to all that helped and participated in the event this Saturday. Happy Holidays to all and thank you too for supporting the school's fifth grade gardening program.