

OFE Growers Newsletter for May 4, 2023

As everyone is aware, we have not been meeting with the students while STAAR testing was active in our school. Next week, however, we will once again meet with the students and there is much to do in the coming couple of weeks as we head towards the end of the school year. We need to harvest the onions, and white potatoes in the next two sessions and unfortunately the students will not get to plant sweet potatoes before the end of this school year.

The gardens are looking really fine! The tomatoes, leafy greens, peppers, cucumbers, squash, and multiplying onions are all thriving and make the gardens look fantastic. This week we harvested some onions and sugar snap peas, bush beans, broccoli, kale, and collards and put the harvest in bags for the 5<sup>th</sup> grade students so that everyone will get to take home the onions and bounty of the gardens.

I want to say that we have really enjoyed working with you all throughout this year. You have been industrious and enthusiastic contributors and have made the gardening experience a lot of fun for us all. I hope as the years roll by you will look back on this time as a fun and valuable learning experience. You got to try new vegetables, use garden tools, experiment with compost tea, evaluate the garden's soil characteristics (sand, silt, and clay), and learn about gardening. You had a chance to develop your understanding of gardening including bed preparation, planting, fertilizing, and harvesting. And through it all you developed a scientific appreciation of gardening as well as some of the practices we employed to protect our planet through organic gardening. You did a LOT!

Finally, I want to thank you all and to wish you all a very happy and fun-filled summer.

Be Safe,