

OFE Growers Newsletter for September 1, 2022

This week was the second week of the 5th grade math and science garden program. Our meeting was an orientation to the gardens. The students were organized into teams. A student team leader was chosen and was accompanied by 1 or 2 volunteers to guide the day's efforts. The class visited the Orchard Gardens before proceeding to the Main Garden area where stations were set up. The individual teams visited each of the stations hearing about what goes on in that area. The stations included a composting area where compost is made including compost tea, the main shed where the tools and supplies are kept, the main garden with its 16 raised beds, and a work area for the harvest to be weighed and prepared for distribution to the class at the end of the day. Garden and tool safety was also discussed in the outdoor classroom. The students and volunteers had a good time together and we all seemed ready to have some good gardening fun.

Each week an OFE Growers Newsletter will be presented to the school to be included in the school's newsletter (distributed to the parents). This newsletter is made available so that the parents and their children can read about what we did in the gardens that week. If you wish to see what went on in the gardens, parents and students alike can visit the OFE Growers website (<https://www.ofegrowers.org/5th-grade-program.html>) to see the photos taken during the gardening day. These pictures will be kept on the website throughout the school year for your pleasure. This website has a lot of information about the garden program and I invite you to take the time to acquaint yourselves about the program's evolution, current activities, past newsletters, outside readings, volunteers (how to become a volunteer), and even recipes for some of the produce your students will be bringing home. Visit as often as you like, it's fun, helps you to know what is happening in the gardens, and to see your student in action.

Each Thursday will be a gardening day, but because of the numbers of students we will be working with 1/3 of the students in the 5th grade class each week so we will have a new class lesson every 4th week. You can review the lessons by visiting the website and viewing the power point lesson for the week. Also on the website is a digital copy of the garden manual (https://www.ofegrowers.org/uploads/8/7/5/2/87524472/ofe_5th_grade_science_and_math_gardening_manual_for_2022_-_2023.pdf).

This website is for everyone so please take the time to enjoy it and also keep track of what is going on in the gardens and with your students.

We are excited and looking forward to working with this year's 5th grade class!!!