

# SPROUT IT OUT!

D.C.'s SCHOOL GARDEN PROGRAM NEWSLETTER

Spring 2012

## OSSE School Garden Program Grants Awarded

The Office of the State Superintendent of Education (OSSE) officially announced the 22 awardees of its inaugural School Garden Grant Program, designed to engage students in garden-based learning and integrate nutrition themes into school curriculum in support of the D.C. Healthy Schools Act.

Representing both District of Columbia Public Schools and District Public Charter Schools and selected after a competitive application process for awards up to \$10,000, the 22 OSSE School Garden Grant Recipients are:

### **Ward 1:**

Capitol City PCS, Cleveland ES, D.C. Bilingual PCS

### **Ward 2:**

Mundo Verde Bilingual School PCS

### **Ward 3:**

Horace Mann ES, Janney ES, Stoddert ES

### **Ward 4:**

Bridges Public Charter School, E.L. Haynes PCS

### **Ward 5:**

E.W. Stokes PCS, John Burroughs Education Campus, Mary McLeod Bethune PCS, McKinley Technology HS, Washington Yu Ying PCS

### **Ward 6:**

Capitol Hill Montessori School at Logan, Eastern HS, Watkins ES

### **Ward 7:**

D.C. Art & Technology Academy PCS, Friendship PCS, Blow Pierce Junior Academy

### **Ward 8:**

Anacostia HS, Excel Academy PCS, Thurgood Marshall Academy PCS

## US Green Ribbon Schools Announced

Secretary of Education Arne Duncan joined White House Council on Environmental Quality Chair Nancy Sutley & EPA Administrator Lisa Jackson on April 23rd to announce the first-ever U.S. Department of Education (US Dept. of ED.) Green Ribbon Schools, that span 29 states & D.C.

Congratulations to Stoddert Elementary and Sidwell Friends Middle School for making the list of 79 schools across the nation designated as Green Ribbon Schools.

OSSE is the state agency that nominates Green Ribbon Schools to the US Dept. of ED. This year [OSSE nominate four schools](#) for this prestigious award.

## OSSE School Garden Grant Available

The [Nutrition Program](#) team at the Office of the State Superintendent of Education, Division of Wellness and Nutrition Services in partnership with the General Mills Foundation and the United Way of the National Capital Area is seeking proposals to fund programs up to \$15,000 each for a maximum of \$200,000 in total grant awards. Funding under the grant must be used for programming that focuses on:

Nutrition education projects that can be inclusive of school garden programs and physical activities in an effort to be certified as a USDA Healthier US School Challenge School. See full [RFA here](#).

### **Need help growing your garden?**

OSSE's Division of Wellness and Nutrition Services would like to help you with your school garden program. Tell us a little about your program by clicking [here](#). We will follow-up with a site visit and provide needed technical assistance to help your garden grow.

## Happenings: Winter

The section highlights seasonal activities in the garden and beyond.

### In Schools:

"We will be starting some "ugly" vegetables seedlings like very bumpy squash (Patisson Strie Melange), red crackled cucumber (Sikkim) and Turkish Orange Eggplant." - *Rebecca Lemos @ DC Bilingual Public Charter School*

"Installation of a rain barrel, planting seedlings that are growing in our classroom, planting seeds straight into the garden after preparing the Soil" - *Susan K. Coti @ John Eaton Elementary*

"We are going to put together a growing plan and hopefully expand the size of the garden a bit up from 10'x10' to about 10'x20' if possible"- *Jesse Gauthier @ Eliot-Hine MS*

"We are literally going to create a living classroom with sweat peas trellises for walls." - *Kealy Rudersdorf @ Stoddert ES*

"Our 3rd graders thought they'd had a head start planting greens during the 2nd week of March during a warm spell, but closer observation shows their seedlings are no higher than the K/1's who planted 2 weeks later. We planted patterns of red and green lettuce seeds, but it was strange that initially all the seedlings were green. Now some are turning red. We mixed the seeds with white sand so we could see where we put them, then covered everything with "Fairy Dust". We can't wait to see if red lettuce tastes different from green."- *Marti Goldstone @ Horace Mann*

"We are writing poems about our gardens. Here is one:"- *Katie Harvey @ Kid Power Inc.*

Kaya, Age 8

Fruits are yummy in my tummy.

Some are sweet and juicy, some are dry and squishy fruits and they will always stay like that.

I love fruits. I bet you do cause they're so sweet like you.

### City Wide:

#### **Growing Garden Teachers Spring Workshop March 23<sup>rd</sup>-24<sup>th</sup>:**

OSSE recently partnered with DC Greens and DC Schoolyard Greening to provide a two-day intensive hands-on teacher training for school garden coordinators. We had outstanding participating and feedback from teachers and left feeling inspired. Participants engaged in school garden site visits, cooking demonstrations, science in the garden demonstrations, hands-on technical training, and lesson planning. Here's what some participants said:

*"Inspiring workshop that has helped to spark new ideas to garden with students"*

*"This workshop has given me the confidence to take our school garden to places I never dreamed possible"*

**OSSE School Garden 101 Training March 20<sup>th</sup>:** This training brought together over 40 school administrators, school staff, teachers, and community members interested in starting, maintaining, and using an edible DC school garden to support nutrition-based lessons as a part of their curriculum. This training provided best practices, an overview of the DC school garden program, and resources to support and sustain school garden efforts. The OSSE School Garden Program will hold this training twice a year.

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**Food Corps Service Day April 14<sup>th</sup>** : Food Corps service members descend on DC for their annual get together which lucky for us include a day of service in four DC school gardens. Eastern HS, Capitol Hill Montessori at Logan, Walker Jones, and Thurgood Marshall Academy hosted over 70 Food Corps members and staff for a productive day in the garden.

## Upcoming: Spring

**Strawberry & Salad Greens May 23<sup>rd</sup>**: Over 200 Washington, DC schools will feature fresh strawberries and salad greens in their school lunches - all from local farms! The D.C. Farm to School Network is helping 50 schools set up hands-on educational tables in their cafeterias to remind students where food comes from. It will also be a great chance for school gardens to celebrate what's growing this spring. Learn more about the event and get your school on board at [www.strawberries-salad.blogspot.com](http://www.strawberries-salad.blogspot.com).

We're also looking for enthusiastic **volunteers** to engage students at "Where Food Comes From" tables in school cafeterias during the event - learn more [here](#).

*The event is brought to you by the D.C. Farm to School Network, in partnership with D.C. Public Schools, the Office of the State Superintendent of Education, and Whole Foods Markets.*

**DC Environmental Literacy Plan public meetings**: The Healthy Schools Act of 2010 prioritizes the health and wellness of students throughout the District and also asserts that the environment plays a central role in supporting learning outcomes and maintaining life-long healthy behaviors. The Healthy Schools Act calls for an environmental literacy plan (ELP) for the District – a road map that will lay the foundation for District-wide implementation and integration of environmental education throughout the K-12 curriculum. The District Department of the Environment (DDOE) will release the DC Environmental Literacy Plan and hold public meetings during the 21-day public comment period beginning May 11, 2012. To download the DC ELP and view the public meeting schedule, visit [www.ddoe.dc.gov](http://www.ddoe.dc.gov). All comments are due no later than Thursday, May 31, 2012, and can be emailed to [environmental.literacy@dc.gov](mailto:environmental.literacy@dc.gov).



Much deserved rest after heavy lifting at Eastern HS Food Corps Service Day



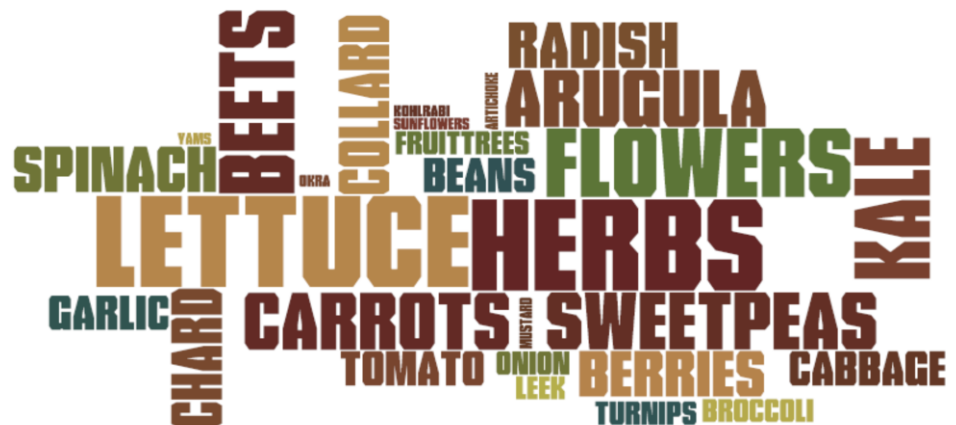
Strawberry and Salad Greens id May 23<sup>rd</sup> [sign up today!](#)

The Farm Fresh Feature for May is the Strawberry! Click [here](#) for a planting calendar.

We asked you what you were growing in your school garden last month.

Here's what you told us:

Share what you are growing now by clicking [here](#)



Interested in contributing to this newsletter?

Comments? Questions? Suggestions? Please contact: Dr. Holly, Nutrition Program Manager at [Dawanna.james-holly@dc.gov](mailto:Dawanna.james-holly@dc.gov) or Mr. Sam Ullery, School Garden Specialist at [Sam.ullery@dc.gov](mailto:Sam.ullery@dc.gov).