

Closing Out Another Year in the School Gardens

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As sure as a cool breeze rustles the leaves of nearby trees, the undeniable sound of children's laughter echoed throughout two different elementary school gardens. Although storms were in the weather forecast, golden rays of sunshine played a game of peek-a-boo on this beautiful morning in early June. As the school year was coming to a close, garden celebrations were in full swing!

Occurring during highly anticipated field day activities, Garden Coordinator Sarah held a farm-tastic end of year celebration! Tucked away amongst a little yellow shed and a crimson colored picket fence the Venable garden was packed with visitors. On this day over three hundred students came out to the garden! Some students participated in scavenger hunts while others planted zinnias and sunflowers to take home. But the highlight of the day was clearly the animal visits: Peanut the goat, Loopie the rooster, and a rabbit named Mr. Nibbles piqued everyone's interest!



→ On the other side of town students at Johnson Elementary had their own garden fun to attend to. Playing in the mud kitchen students took turns pretending to cut and prepare healthy meals for one another. Tasting and even harvesting fresh organic kale, mint, and strawberries. Some of them even designed bags to hold their fruitful harvests. All of their eyes lit up when they found out that everyone got to take a seed ball home with them as well!

Amid the endless bubbles and various activities the children enjoyed themselves in the gardens. But just as every growing season comes to an end, so has another school year. Some will go on to other schools, some may move away but I hope that they'll always remember their school garden as a place of acceptance, encouragement, and GROWTH.

“Our gardens do more than feed folks, they nourish young minds!”

