

Troy School Garden dedication ceremony

It was celebration time in Troy last week as the Troy School honored the its School Garden's third year of successfully growing food for the school community. It was a festive occasion with all Troy students in attendance, touring the garden and participating in activities. There were ceremonial plantings to mark year three of the garden: chives and mint, both perennials, signified the permanent place the garden has taken in the school culture and the years of growth ahead for the program. The "Garden Song" was led by music teacher Wendell Hughes and sung heartily by the whole crowd. For a locally grown and student-made snack, there was an ice-cream party. The Junior Chef club students, led by Mary Lou Bonneau and the after-school coordinator Tim Dull, used cream students brought back from a recent field trip to Butterworks Farm, and created a most memorable and delicious treat. Cones for the ice cream treat were generously donated by Cajun's Snack Bar in Lowell.

In addition to being a fabulous celebration, it was a great day to highlight the accomplishments of the last three years. Several classes have worked with Green Mountain Farm-to-School (GMFTS) to plan some wonderful farm field trips for students and to connect local farms to the Troy School. The GMFTS Planting Seeds of Change Program engages after-school students in gardening, nutrition and cooking activities, connecting them to their food sources. These students designed and planted the garden which will supply food to the cafeteria in the fall. Volunteers are encouraged to participate in maintaining the garden when school is not in session: There are community gardening days every other Thursday at 10:30 throughout the summer months.

To help mark the dedication of the Troy



Students and staff from the Troy School gather at the school garden to celebrate three year's of growing fresh fruits and vegetables for the school cafeteria.

Garden, students participated in a Poem contest. There were a number of wonderful entries, but here is the winner, from sixth grade student Nicole Baraw:

Where good things grow

To the garden we go
So many rows
With wiggling toes
Passing by
Tying up the veggies and fruits
Some vines can be brutes
Planting seeds
Tending to their needs
As you tend
Oh, these chores never end
To the garden we go
Where good things grow

As the Planting Seeds of Change Garden Program heads into its fourth year at Troy School, we are delighted to look back at all the good things that have grown so far. While Nicole is right – the chores never end – the celebration at Troy school helped remind us all that the hard work results in a bountiful harvest of school pride, love for community and healthy, delicious food.

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