

Life Lab Garden Newsletter

March 2010



Dear Teachers and Garden Parents,

The flowers are here! If you have time to walk by the garden, the daffodils are putting on a colorful show, and tulips are soon to follow. The flowers would make a beautiful photo backdrop if you're planning any student photos for spring or Mother's Day projects.

1st Session: "Bird Feathers" Students will use a hand-held microscope to examine the structure of peacock, guinea hen, pheasant, and chicken feathers and discuss the way various feathers serve different functions for the bird. Supplies will be in a plastic bin on the floor in front of the Life Lab mailbox. *This lesson is planned to be in the classroom, or could be outdoors at the garden picnic tables. You could choose to do Planting as your first session if the weather is good, just let us know.*

2nd Session: "Planting the Spring Crop" Students will place their stepping stone in the garden, do some light weeding, plant vegetable and wildflower seeds for the spring crop, and water in the new seeds. Seed packets and a note of where to plant will be located in the small white shed in the upper garden, and will be marked with the name of your class. *This lesson will be done in the garden. In the case of rainy weather, an alternate indoor lesson will be provided.*

"No Child Left Inside" Day: Our school-wide outdoor nature education day, "No Child Left Inside" Day, has been set for Friday, April 23rd, from 8:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. It is our second annual event and will be an exciting and unique day of outdoor activities and education centers such as habitat exploration, guided bird-watching walks, paper making, orienteering, and nature crafts. Our presenters are confirmed, and we are currently in the process of finalizing lesson plans, purchasing materials, organizing volunteers, and planning publicity.

If you're interested in helping with preparations or on the day of the event, please email Laura Buehler at svlifelab@hotmail.com. We will need at least 4 volunteers from each class to make this day a successful event for our students. It's a lot of fun – please join us!

Stepping Stones: Your class can pick a spot in the upper or lower garden to place their stepping stone. There are trowels located in the small white shed in the upper garden. Dig a round area to place the stone, check to be sure it is relatively level, and backfill dirt against the stone. Bring your class' stepping stone to your garden visit in March or April.

March Calendar: The attached calendar shows the classes already signed up and open times through the end of the school year. The calendar is also hanging in the staff room. Please email Gaynell to confirm any new times.

March Garden Work Day: We're planning a Parent and Child Garden Work Day on March 29th or 30th during the holiday break. Please email if you're interested.

Coming in April: "What is a Watershed?" Exploring a pond ecosystem. Kindergarten classes will release ladybugs in the garden.

Happy Gardening from your Life Lab Garden Coordinators,

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