



MU CHILDREN'S LEARNING GARDEN

2016 SEASON FAMILY NEWSLETTER
MAY

Exploring and Learning in the Garden

Spring has sprung and all of our classrooms have been busy in the garden. Some highlights of classroom activities include the following:

- **Planting:** Each classroom started seeds in their classroom to watch the growing closely. As classrooms have hardened off their plants (helped their sprouts get used to growing outdoors), they are now planting them in the garden. Blue Door planted peas and Yellow Door planted cucumbers in the garden. Other classrooms will plant in early May.
- **Harvesting:** Our first CDL Farmer's Market happened in April, sending Egyptian Walking Onions home with families. What did you make? We'd love to know!
- **Tasting:** Every classroom has enjoyed the asparagus harvest this season. In addition to the chive and mint tasting, they are now tasting the Vulcan and Bibb lettuces that are growing beautifully.
- **Learning:** Our teachers have spent professional development time learning, discussing, and planning ways in which to incorporate the garden into their learning goals and objectives with children. A sample of what the children are learning while in the garden is below:
 - **Red Door** practiced measuring with tape measures. After collecting their measurements, they made charts of their shortest and tallest observations.
 - **Green Door** took pictures across a few days with their iPad and compared and contrasted the growth of things in the garden.
 - **Yellow Door** counted strawberries and then counted children from other classrooms to figure out which classroom would be the recipient of their harvest.
 - **Blue Door** has been engaged in sensory explorations! They have been feeling the soft Lamb's Ear and smelling the chives. Their favorite things to taste - they've decided asparagus and lettuce are yummy!

This month in the garden....

- Weekly activities in the People's Garden with our USDA partner, Jim Elder, will begin again.
- Our partners in Agroforestry are donating and delivering trees and berry bushes this month. Look for apple, fig, pear, and lemon trees soon! Blueberry and blackberry bushes will follow.
- Our Farm-to-Preschool grant is focusing on strawberries, lettuces, and broccoli this month. We're incorporating lessons and tasting here at school. Are any of these tasted, grown, or talked about at your house? Share your stories with us!



I spy in the garden!