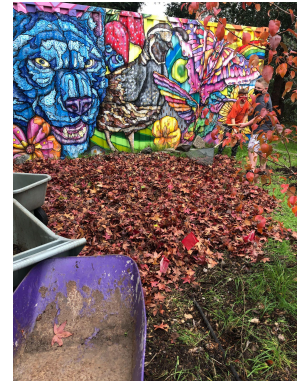


November 15 and 18



Well, this was the first time we've had a cat visitor - She's a little late for Hallowe'en!



*The rain brought some truly amazing mushrooms! And, of course, more fallen leaves. Ms Sposato's class even found a **sand**-wich, get it? Leaves are not trash; they make a lovely red carpet of weed suppressing mulch.*



Students also got very creative with dried,

pressed leaves.



Celery and more apples were a big hit.



Fairy house architecture takes many forms and styles.

The garden was put to bed for winter on Thursday. From Thanksgiving break until February, the Garden, Nutrition, and Environmental Education(GEE!) Program is on hiatus. Heartfelt thanks to all the parent volunteers who help make it a success.

The program will begin again in spring with a newly hired garden educator. After 3 years here at Penngrove as a

student, 21 years here as a classroom teacher, and four years spent developing and teaching the GEE! Program, I am retiring!

I am deeply grateful for having the chance to be a part of this community and to have been privileged to be part of your children's lives.

But when the little ones start telling me that their own parents were in my fourth grade class - well, then I know it's time to move on!



Sincerely,

Marianne Barrell

(portrait by Natalia in 4th grade) I love it!

November 4 and 8



Apple Tasting is a fall tradition at Penngrove. 4 very different apples.

*The toothpicks in the plates indicate favorites. We also tasted the **very first** pomegranates from our orchard!*



Creating with dried leaves.



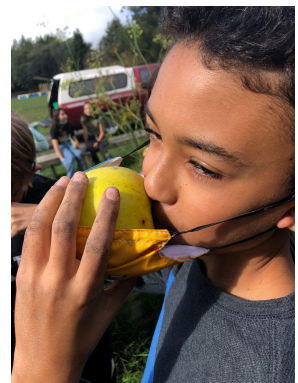
We've pressed flowers and leaves for weeks.



Fifth graders planted narcissus bulbs near the family parking lot stairs.

Keep your eyes open for those leaves as they begin to pop up.

*Stale mask smell got you down? Leaves from the herb garden will refresh your mask.
(An apple is a little too big)*



November 1 rain - no classes in garden

October 28



*Helping the
custodians
rake the
leaves!*



*Decorating the school
for Halloween*



*More Balloon Vine
crowns, and mud,
wonderful mud!*



Remind you of anything?

Pesky coronavirus! Nature has only so many forms and uses them for many things.

*October 21 and 25 - rain -no garden classes
October 18th*

Returning from break to Rain!

There was 2 tenths of an inch of rain in our rain gauge Monday when we returned to school! Lots of gunk, too. Some helpful sixth graders cleaned it and I expect it will be completely filled on Thursday.



Sixth graders picked the corn and hung it to dry.



It is popcorn so it needs to be very dry



We put fall crops in the bed where the corn had been



1st and 2nd graders made a seasonal favorite: balloon vine crowns!



So many colors to hunt for and preserve at this time of year.



Color match



Leaf press

October 21 and October 25 were both too wet for the GEE! Program. We expect to be back on Thursday!

Sept 21 - Fall Equinox and Harvest Moon! Last Thursday was the final summer garden day this year. This Thursday will be fall and that means planting brassicas like broccoli and cabbage, and kale and kohlrabi.

Harmony Farm Supply in Graton generously gave us (and all school gardens in the network) 2 flats of fall vegetable starts. After we pull much of the summer garden Thursday and replenish the soil in

the beds we will plant those brassicas, and fennel, marjoram, spinach, and more.

We will be sending home six packs of broccoli and cabbage mixes, and sugar peas, that we have started here in our greenhouse. Be prepared to plant in your garden the first weekend of break!



Finding worms in their habitats



Measuring the classroom to map the garden



Observing and Drawing



The Morning Glories are a favorite subject for young artists



Two flats of fall seedlings FREE from Harmony Farm Supply in Graton!



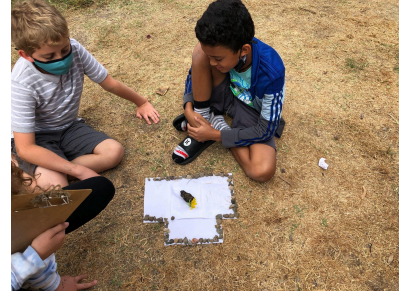
Fifth graders continue to tidy the borders and rake the paths.



After a honeybee was found cold and motionless, Ss brought her into the sun and warmed her.



That was so rewarding that they built a bee hospital and treated three more honeybees! So kind and so heartfelt.



September 11

This week we harvested the seeds from dried artichoke flowers and planted them.



Who knew there are so many colors and shapes and sizes of tomato?!



Digging potatoes



Planting Carrots



Making tomato popsicles!



3rd graders started to redo the rock border and fifth graders finished the job!



A garden playday!

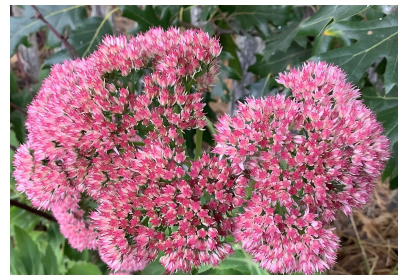
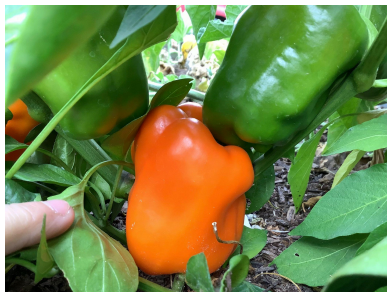


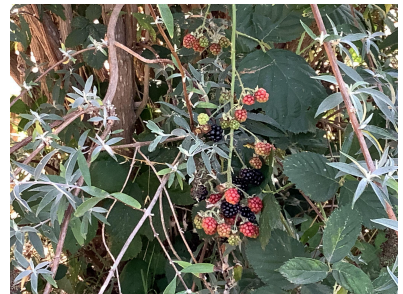
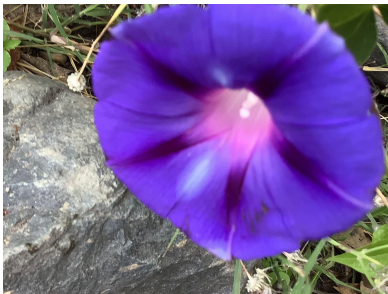
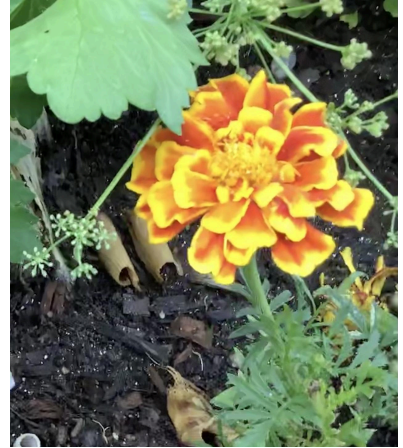
Sep 4, 2021

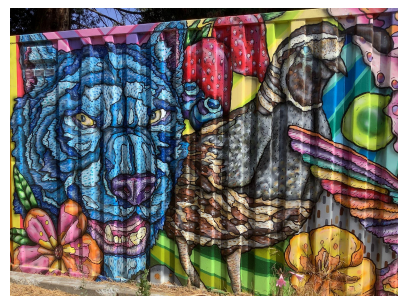
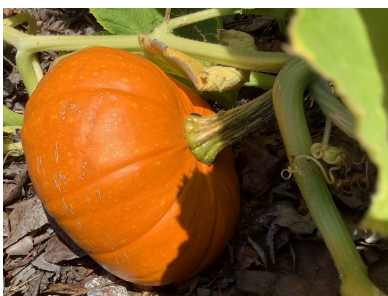
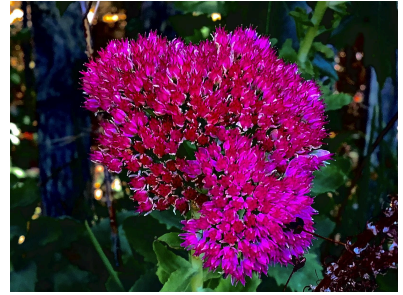
No School Monday in honor of Labor

More Student Photography:

*Because of the way these were shared I
can't tell who took these photos. :(
I believe that credit goes to fifth graders
for these.*









And... we sent more food home...

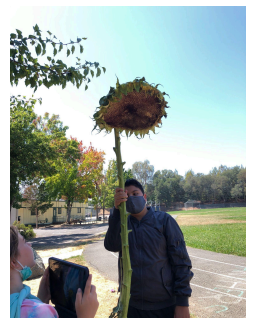


Aug 30

This week students from 2-6 brought their iPads to the garden and practiced their photography skills.



They chose a SUBJECT, got CLOSE, FOCUSED, and took shots from different ANGLES.

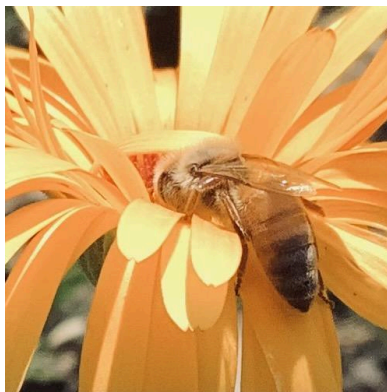
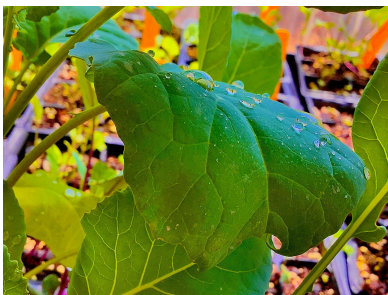
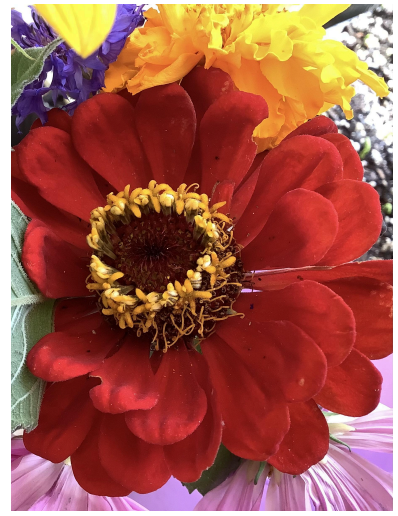


Later, they DELETED unwanted photos, and CROPPED the best ones.



Photo Credits:

*Averiana
Grace
Julia
Ben
Laney
Nancy
Angelina
Cambrie
Lauren
Kahlen*



Look for more in the coming weeks.

*Kinders harvested three kinds of seeds:
hard (Calendula), fluffy (Strawflower),
and spaceship shaped (Scabiosa).*

*On Thursday, Ms. Moran's class took home
produce from the garden.*



*Ms. Weaver's class will this
coming Thursday, we hope.
We are searching for a
good, fair way to share the
food we are*

*growing since we cannot prepare
and eat food together like we
have in the past.*



More painting:



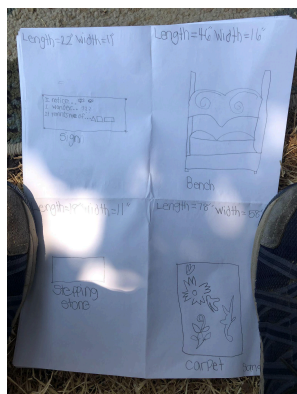
Aug 23

This week the fifth graders “cleaned house” for our guests, Mugsy Clicks. They raked, and swept, and weeded, and pruned. The garden is looking really tip top and you might see it in your children’s photos.

In the past, sixth graders would prepare and share salads, vegetable and rice dishes, and hors-d’oeuvre with produce from the garden but this year we can’t.

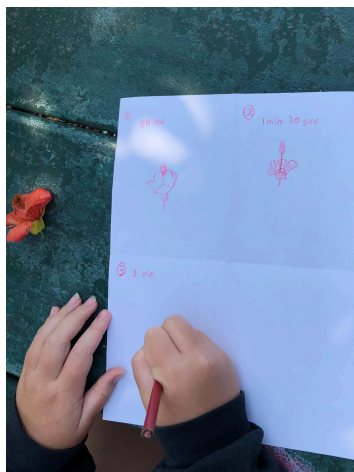
Garden produce will be shared with students who wish to bring it home. Next week there will be beans, summer squash, and cucumbers going home.

More corn husk dolls were made this week.



Sixth graders continued to use measuring tools. Last week it was diameter and

*circumference-this week width and length. The littles listened to *From Seed to Plant* by Gail Gibbons and planted two flats of snap peas. One flat was planted with dry pea seeds and the other with pre-soaked pea seeds. Ask your child which he/she thinks will germinate first.*



The fourth graders pressed flowers after drawing them in ever increasing detail for 30, then 90, then 180 seconds.

August 17

Things are growing fast and going fast in the garden these days!

We need more dried corn husks to make sure everyone gets a chance to make a doll. Here are some pictures:



*Weeding,
painting,
building, sorting,
making music,
making corn husk
crafts*



Aug 10

Last Thursday and yesterday, more volunteers gave their time and energy to their children's classes! With their help students could break into smaller groups and experience more activities. Thank you.

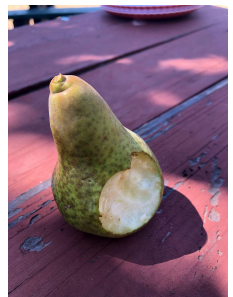
Students of all ages tasted Bartlett pears this week. One Kindergartener



declared excitedly that he does not like pears at home but he loves them in the school garden!



Our Bosc pear is loaded with beautiful fruit, but will not ripen until after the fall break. Please remind your children not to pick fruit or poke pumpkins before

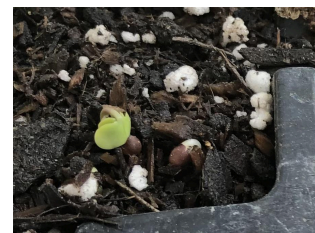


they are ready. The fruits are wasted when this happens.

Students are giving a paint facelift to the garden, weeding for fall planting, wearing Lamb's Ears ears, and enjoying flowers.



The very first of our Broccoli mix seeds has sprouted!



August 2



*Volunteers are showing up!
Thank you!*

Kinders heard a book about bugs and insects today. They counted the legs and wings on spider, beetle, and snail and worm plush toys. With help from a former Panther they sorted the “animals” into categories.



Second graders harvested sweet pea and fava bean seeds and made drawings comparing the pods and seeds.



Many students compared the taste of lemon, green, and yellow cucumbers. Most agreed that the lemon cucumber was juiciest and the green one was the most bitter!

4-6 graders made linen bookmarks by bundle dyeing them with assorted flowers and berries and leaves. We'll do more on Monday before and after lunch. Come and volunteer and make your own!



The tomatoes are ripening and a student went home with summer squash. There are foods to prepare and taste. Volunteers make cooking easier in the Outdoor Classroom. Ask your S's teacher when his/her garden session is. (You can probably tell that we need a photographer, too!) mbarrell@petk12.org

July 26! Back in the garden with Students!

Sooo glad to see Panthers again! On Monday half the classes came to the garden; the remaining students will come on Thursdays. Ask your child when they come to the garden and consider coming yourself that day as a volunteer.

Students explored briefly to get reacquainted with the space, which has changed quite a bit during the year when they were away. The addition of a "fish pond" was a big hit.



We pulled all the carrots that were planted in Spring and scrubbed the soil off of them

and ate them. Hoping for cherry tomatoes and strawberries for everyone on Thursday.

Kinders went on a matching hunt. They were given a flower and challenged to find its exact match somewhere in the garden.

Older students were given a seed packet with a colored photo on it and challenged to work together to create a rainbow of seed packets.



Fourth and 6th graders discovered the value of taking more time and not racing through tasks when they were given 30, then 90, then 18 seconds to draw the same thing. Everyone agreed that with more time they had more ideas, added more details, and were more focused.

Update July 16 - Volunteers Needed

During the summer break the garden has been growing right along! There are ripe Sun Gold tomatoes and many types of larger tomatoes have lots of green fruit. The herb box is kind of bursting. The carrots very much need to be pulled and eaten!

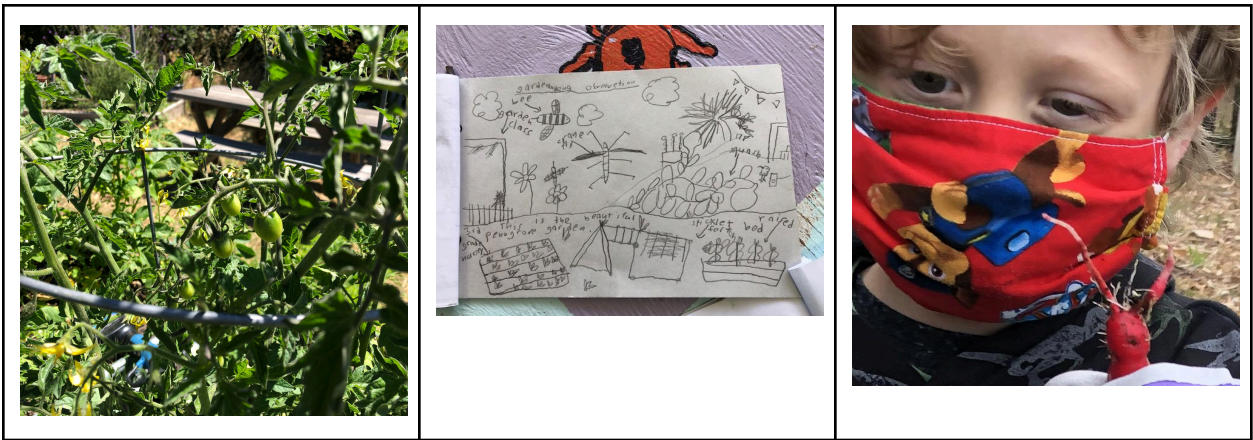
There are sweet pea pods for harvesting and flowers to pick and pumpkins and corn to measure, and lots of watering to do.

All the garden signs need repainting this year, and the fall planting needs to be done.

The garden classes will be on Monday and Thursday this year and will start right away on Monday, July 26. This program is so appreciated by students and they get far more out of it when they can be mostly independent and, in elementary school, **independence** needs **supervision**!

Please check your schedule and see if you have time to come help with a small group scavenger hunt, or small group art project, or a solitary weeding session, or...? I count on you, parents and grandparents, for the extra hands I need to provide your children with safe and amazing outdoor educational experiences.





Update May 21



Insect net hats!	Drawing garden sights	Everyone went home with a start for the home garden	
------------------	-----------------------	---	--

Last Lunch Bunch of the Year is this Friday!

If you want to stay after your morning class and bring your lunch to the garden sign up [here](#). If you want to come half an hour early for your PM class sign up [here](#). (You are free to bring your lunch or not) You don't need a parent. Just come straight from class and your parent can collect you up here in the garden. Eating is not required - you may explore or just lay in the grass!

Running water and hand soap are here in our outdoor classroom. Gloves are available. While on campus, everyone is required to wear masks and maintain 6 feet of social distance.

Update May 14



[Lunch Bunch](#) caught some more tadpoles for Kindergarten science observation.



Did I say more? I meant MANY more!



We observed all the stages of a ladybug's life cycle up close and personal. Her eggs are yellow!



Thanks to a mini-grant from Wellkind we were able to purchase another planter. 2 of these were donations from Wilco.



The three new beds in position with soil purchased from Sonomarin Landscape Materials with Wellkind funding!

Lunch Bunch Only 2 left!

If you want to stay after your morning class and bring your lunch to the garden sign up [here](#). If you want to come half an hour early for your PM class sign up [here](#). (You are free to bring your lunch or not) You don't need a parent. Just come straight from class and your parent can collect you up here in the garden. Eating is not required - you may explore or just lay in the grass!

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Update April 30

(oops! I missed last week's update- we wore cabbage leaf hats and ate "hand salads" - carrots wrapped in red leaf lettuce)



On the 30th, we sent some tadpoles to room 3 for observation by the kinders. How many days till the tadpoles become frogs? Did you know that tadpoles are herbivores, but when they are adult frogs they are carnivores?



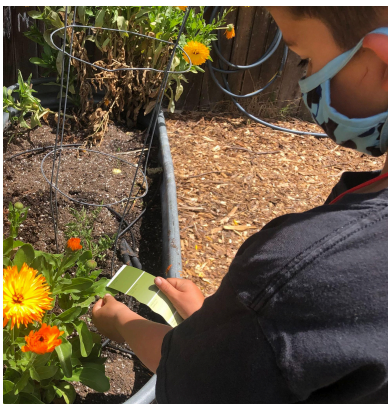
Catching tadpoles



This gopher seemed
unafraid!



Gopher trap failed



Color matching



Ms Tracy's class

We picked and ate fava beans and the Lunch Bunch had its first two participants! Come with your friends this Friday.

Lunch Bunch

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Grant News

The garden has been getting some improvements lately! We are replacing all the wooden raised beds with weed-proof, gopher-proof galvanized stock tanks and loading in brand new weed-free soil. We have received support this year from:

[Wellkind](#) made a generous grant of \$500. to our garden to update the irrigation system and purchase galvanized beds.

The Petaluma Rotary and Fishman Janitorial Supply granted us a mini-grant to buy three raised beds and soil .

Wilco gave us a \$200. gift card!

The Littlefield Farm, Arlington WA

SCBarns

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[Aug 19](#)

[Aug 12](#)

[Aug 5](#)

Hope to see you Friday! Sign up for April 23 [here](#) or feel free to email me.

~Ms. Barrell mbarrell@petk12.org

Update April 17



It was wonderful to see a class in the garden at last! Kindergarteners explored the Penngrove Learning Garden - some for the very first time. Insects and other creatures were inspected using magnifying lenses and everyone discovered how to open a fava bean pod and eat the beans.

More classes have signed up for visits on Fridays for the rest of the year. Ask your teacher if you want him or her to sign up for your class.

Also, If you want to stay after your morning class and bring your lunch to the garden sign up [here](#). If you want to come half an hour early for your PM class sign up [here](#). (You are free to bring your lunch or not)

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~Ms. Barrell mbarrell@petk12.org

Update April 10

Garden Time Moves to Fridays!

Well, exactly a month has gone by and the spring has brought so many changes! I am so looking forward to seeing and hearing your faces and voices on campus this week on Friday.

If you want to stay after your morning class and bring your lunch to the garden sign up [here](#). If you want to come half an hour early for your PM class sign up [here](#). (You are free to bring your lunch or not)

Check out some of these pictures to see what you might be doing in the garden. You can just sit and enjoy being at school, not doing anything, if you want.



Picking radishes



Hunting bugs



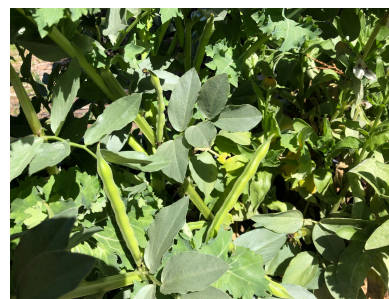
Drinking mint tea



Feeding scraps to the worms



Enjoying the fruit tree blossoms



Picking beans



Planting seeds



Washing carrots to eat

Resting, listening, enjoying other people's company, digging, planting, weeding, watering, drawing...

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Hope to see you Friday! Sign up for April 16 [here](#) or feel free to email me.

~Ms. Barrell mbarrell@petk12.org

Update: March 10



We are getting in quite the habit of beginning our garden sessions with a carrot snack! They are high in Vitamins A and K, in addition to being crunchy and especially sweet in late winter.



More and more students are getting to know each other here in the garden! Getting acquainted in person beats Zoom any day of the week.



These kindergarteners asked the usual getting-to-know-you-questions before jumping in to the tasks of the day.

We planted 2 flats of lettuce seeds. The packets showed that not all lettuce is green! And, the different lettuce types have different colored seeds.



We upcycled toilet paper rolls into little seed starting pots. Once the lettuce seeds in them have sprouted and grown a little the pots can be planted directly into their home gardens.



On Wednesdays, up to 12 people at a time are welcome to come spend some time and energy here with me planting, weeding, watering, and growing food and flowers. Parents and children may [sign up](#) to come from 9:30 - 10:30 or from 10:45-11:45 on Wednesdays. At 12, I pick produce for the lunch pick up.

First, visit the office for a temperature check then come up to the garden. We'll start in a circle, then we'll get into garden tasks and projects. Everyone will go home each Wednesday with something from the garden.

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Hope to see you soon! Sign up for March 17 [here](#) or feel free to email me.

~Ms. Barrell mbarrell@petk12.org

Update: March 3

We grew our group size to 12 this week! Kindergarteners met other K's and 3rd and fourth graders got reacquainted. Students picked and scrubbed



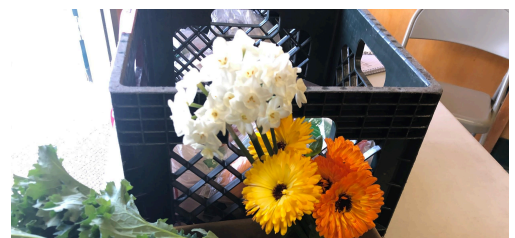
carrots and ate them. We planted more carrot seeds for Panthers who will come to the garden after spring break!

We planted many six packs of beet and cucumber seeds to share with students after the break so they can go into their home gardens. The pea seeds we planted last week are just beginning to sprout.



A couple of beautiful succulent mandalas were created today. Hopefully, they will grow into many plants.

Students took kale and carrots home with them. Produce was shared at the lunch pickup, too!



On Wednesdays, up to 12 people at a time are welcome to come spend some time and energy here with me planting, weeding, watering, and growing food and flowers. Parents and children may [sign up](#) to come from 9:30 - 10:30 or from 10:45-11:45 on Wednesdays. At 12, I pick produce for the lunch pick up.

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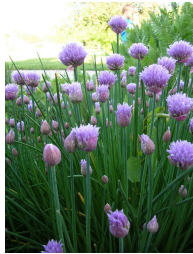
Hope to see you soon! Sign up for March 10 [here](#) or feel free to email me.

~Ms. Barrell mbarrell@petk12.org

Update: February 24th

We were so busy in the garden Wednesday that I failed to even take any pictures!

We planted: chives in the herb beds, purple potatoes, LOTS of seeds in trays, red and green lettuces, buckeye tree seeds!



Charlie's family went home with Brussels sprouts for their dinner.

This week the Penngrove School Garden was also awarded a grant from Wellkind.org so we'll be able to continue to add stock tank planters and greenhouse irrigation!

On Wednesdays, up to 12 people at a time are welcome to come spend some time and energy here with me planting, weeding, watering, and growing food and flowers. Parents and children may [sign up](#) to come from 9:30 - 10:30 or from 10:45-11:45 on Wednesdays.

First, visit the office for a temperature check then come up to the garden. We'll start in a circle, then we'll get into garden tasks and projects. Everyone will go home each Wednesday with something from the garden.

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Hope to see you soon! Sign up for March 3 [here](#) or feel free to email me.

~Ms. Barrell mbarrell@petk12.org

Update: February 17th

Wednesday in the Garden has launched for the spring! A few families came out to eat carrots, plant some delicious smelling herbs, and weed the strawberry patch. (Sometimes that feels like an endless task!)



The carrots shown below in a two week old photo have grown *a lot* this month. They are pretty crowded so we counted and pulled every second carrot, in a pattern. Just a few of the carrots we pulled were big enough to eat. The rest are growing fast!



We dug up the savory herbs like oregano, and thyme, lemon grass, and marjoram, and carefully removed all the weeds and weed roots we could find and replanted them in the new metal stock tank planters. Student gardeners went home with herbs in pots and took home a thornless blackberry sprig.

Pollinating insects are beginning to buzz around the garden and flowers are right around the corner. Thanks to the garden fairies who replaced the fallen bird bath.

On Wednesdays, up to 9 people at a time are welcome to come spend some time and energy here with me planting, weeding, watering, and growing food and flowers. Parents and children may [sign up](#) to come from 12:30 - 1:30 or from 1:45-2:45 on Wednesdays.



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Hope to see you soon! Sign up for Feb 24 [here](#) or feel free to email me.

~Ms. Barrell mbarrell@petk12.org

Ready for Wednesdays in the Garden?

I have been checking in on the garden during the winter and I am so excited every time I am there - I can hardly wait to see some Panthers out there, too! [Sign up](#) to join in the fun on Feb. 10. (You'll see the times have changed)



You'll notice some changes when you come back. I cut back the butterfly bush by quite a lot hoping for more sun on the vegetables and more flowers next summer. Fred and Keith hauled away that debris and spread some path chips during the break. Thanks, Awesome Custodians!

The Petaluma Rotary and Fishman Supply Company gave us a mini grant to purchase more weed free garden beds. SC Barns gave us a discount on these stock tanks. A couple of kids from the Y helped me install them. Grateful to Jordy and Moira.



The first task when we return is to move all the herbs EXCEPT the mint into these lovely new planters and pick and share the brussels sprouts. We will plant more carrots then, too!

On Wednesdays, up to 9 people at a time are welcome to come spend some time and energy here with me planting, weeding, watering, and growing food and flowers. Parents and children may [sign up](#) to come from 12:30 - 1:03 am or from 1:45-2:45 on Wednesdays.



First, visit the office for a temperature check then come up to the garden. We'll start in a circle, then we'll get into garden tasks and projects. Everyone will go home each Wednesday with something from the garden.

Running water and hand soap are here in our outdoor classroom. Gloves are available. While on campus, everyone is required to wear masks and maintain 6 feet of social distance.

Siblings who are not enrolled at Penngrove ARE WELCOME to join their Panther brothers and sisters. A parent must accompany children, but the children can be of another family in your corona bubble.

Past newsletter articles here:

[Sept 16](#)

[Sept. 9](#)

[Sept 2](#)

[Aug 26](#)

[Aug 19](#)

[Aug 12](#)

[Aug 5](#)

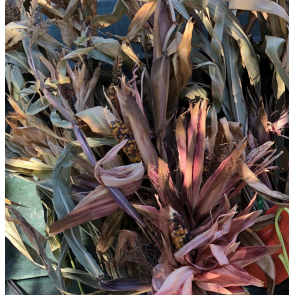
Hope to see you soon! Sign up for Feb 10 [here](#) or feel free to email me.

~Ms. Barrell mbarrell@petk12.org

Wednesdays in the Garden!



At last, we had some rain! It has been three weeks since the garden gang met in the Penngrove School garden and things feel very different. We needed to do activities under the cover of the Outdoor Learning Center and the garden itself was damp and dust free for the first time. The rain really pounded on the roof for a while!



We took apart the Harvest decorations we'd made for the October costume walk. These little Panthers harvested the corn kernels for planting next Spring. It was so exciting to pull the husks back and marvel at the different colors that corn kernels can be!



We also made our own flower seed packets for taking home and planting right away. The Gaillardia flower has 30 yellow tips and three yellow tips per petal. We did some casual math while coloring our packets.

We looked at many different seeds and seed pods and kept some special pumpkin seeds for next year, too.



We helped the custodians by raking autumn leaves and saved them for garden



mulch. (Okay, we jumped in them, too!)

We planted garlic for harvesting next year, and fava beans which should be ready to eat around spring break.

More delicious, nutritious food was shared at the lunch pick up by Miss Julie's kitchen.



The garden is tucked in for winter now. Things will grow very slowly during the cold days and long nights. The next Wednesday in the Garden won't be until February. I will print updates now and then.

Fava beans are very easy to grow and grow throughout the winter in Sonoma County. If you are looking for an easy crop for beginner gardeners try it. (It does grow tall and take up a little space).

Past newsletter articles here:

[Oct 28](#)

[Oct 21](#)

[Sept 23](#)

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