

From the Giving Garden

Connecting Us to Each Other one Tomato at a Time

Of Soil and Solitude

In the quiet of Winter



Crystal Flower

Winter in the garden is a time for planning and preparing. What shall we plant? Who wants to plant it? How will we tend the Giving Garden over the summer?

Planning for the 2020 growing season has begun. Do you have something that you can contribute to the Giving Garden—old seeds, organic compost, tools—for students to use?

The two hoop houses are set up for early spring planting (depending on the weather: March or April), but plants will be started in the Greenhouse before Spring Break.

Parent volunteers are greatly appreciated for their time and

talent in the garden. From cultivating to weeding, from working with students to just helping to organize many skills are needed.

Please email Christine Henke Mueller at chenkemueller@prairieschool.com your interest in volunteering your time in the Giving Garden.

Volunteers

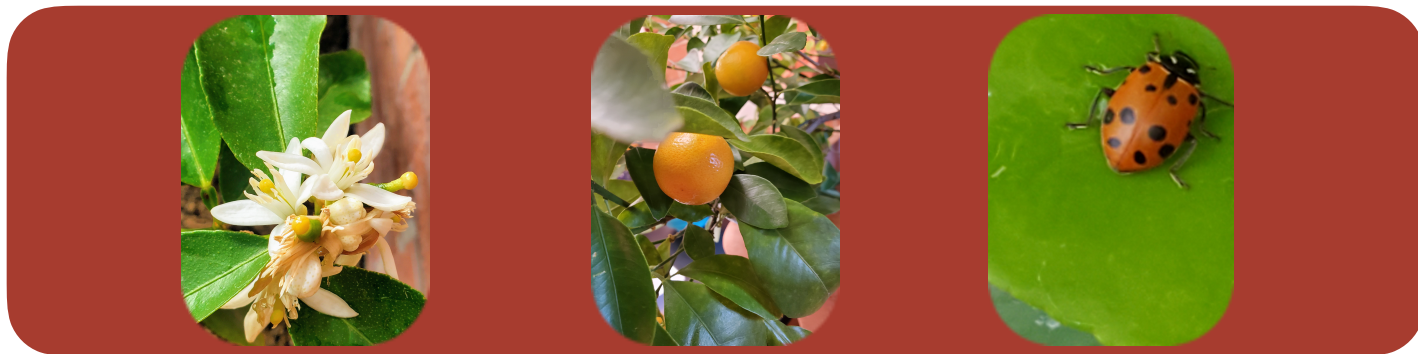
Many thanks to Dr. Becky Wheeler for gathering student volunteers: Kyleigh Anderson ('23), Hunter Ho ('22), Audrey Braun ('21), and Sam Christenson ('20) to remove weeds from the Giving Garden.

More thanks to alumni, Ian Mueller, for clearing away dead plants and invasive flowers and to Chad Swedberg, father of Evelyn ('22) and Georgia ('24), for setting up the hoop houses and clearing away debris.

Many hands make light work!

Cloak of Winter

“Every gardener knows that under the cloak of winter lies a miracle ... a seed waiting to sprout, a bulb opening to the light, a bud straining to unfurl. And the anticipation nurtures our dream.” ~ Barbara Winkler



In the Greenhouse

Once again the Greenhouse received a little sprucing up and renovation. New gravel was poured courtesy of alumn, Ian Mueller ('12) and will hopefully cut down on plants that accidentally start up due to spillage. Bernoli Baello graciously gifted his time and effort to organizing and cleaning up the room behind the Greenhouse. Now, in addition to the timed water source, growlights are available and set by timer. This automation allows for students to set experiments and control for water, light, *and* temperature as well as for science students the opportunity to start seedlings during these winter months. Look how our oranges are growing!

IN THE DINING ROOM WITH THE EDIBLE SCHOOLYARD

November marked the our first-ever participation in the Wisconsin Chili Lunch. Third and Fourth Graders made chili using produce from our Giving Garden and served it in the Dining Room during lunch.

Statewide, over 48,000 bowls of chili were served using Wisconsin grown produce. Wisconsin Chili Lunch is an effort of UW-Madison. The Prairie School partners with state and national organizations and educators to provide our students with nutrition education throughout the school year.

Pucker up for Pickles! The Edible Schoolyard's second batch of pickles was recently served in the Dining Room. We are perfecting our recipe—(whew! those last ones were salty!) and plan to put out two more batches this spring. Stay tuned!

