

State of the Garden

Escuela Amigos School

November, 2013

Dear Amigos community,

As the final garden preparations have been made for the coming winter, it is now time to reflect upon the many great things that have happened in the garden over the previous eight months...

Spring/Fall Classroom Garden Use

I am happy to report that each JK-5 grade was able to use the garden to aid classroom learning during this past year. Amongst a wide-range of activities, a few highlights of classes using the garden to connect to classroom learning include students planting beans and peas and measuring their growth, students harvesting compost and adding it back into garden beds, and students practicing their mapping skills by creating maps of the garden.

Summer Internship Program

This summer featured numerous current Amigos students as part of the CitySprouts Middle School Summer Internship Program. Throughout each 4-week session, middle school interns from across the district learned to grow, harvest, and prepare food from the garden. In doing so, they regularly took garden-grown food home to share with their families. Additionally, summer interns also learned about healthy food systems and took part in multiple service learning field trips. These trips included visiting local farms (Gaining Ground Farm in Concord, and the Waltham Fields Community Farm), visiting the kitchen of the Central Sq. Chipotle, and volunteering at both the Greater Boston Food Bank and the Salvation Army. Thank you to all the summer interns for doing a great job!

CitySprouts Fall Festival

This year's fall festival was held at the Baldwin school. Students, families, and community members from across Cambridge came to help celebrate fall by making apple cider, decorating pumpkins, playing games, and listening to live music. A highlight of the fall festival was the summer intern Iron-Chef Dip-Off competition.



Looking Forward

Over the winter, I will be counting the days until the resumption of my Garden Coordinator duties on April 1st. While I will be "off" until then, I am happy to say that FoodCorps service member, Jane Mulcahy, will be staying in our five schools throughout the winter months. Jane already has various projects set to undertake, however, please contact her at jane.mulcahy@foodcorps.org if you are interested in working with her on a project over the winter.

Thank you once again for a great year. I look forward to seeing you once again in the spring!

From the garden,
Brad

"The single greatest lesson the garden teaches is that our relationship to the planet need not be zero-sum, and that as long as the sun still shines and people still can plan and plant, think and do, we can, if we bother to try, find ways to provide for ourselves without diminishing the world." -Michael Pollen, The Omnivore's Dilemma