

Inaugural Issue: Garden-Based Learning (GBL) at North!

Editor's Choice/Your Contribution

This first issue has been written by the Editor. **We want to feature brief articles that are written by teachers and/or their students** about their classroom GBL activities! Send your contributions to jim.rye@mail.wvu.edu. Please title each article, include a photo if possible, and teach us something! If people are in your photo, make sure it is okay with them (or their parents). Oh, if there is a class that wants to be Guest Editor of an entire issue, let the Editor know! Issue 2 of this newsletter will be published as soon as we have enough material for two pages!

An Herb Is Getting Bugged!



I'm orange and black: Who and what good am I?

There is an interesting bug about in Panther Pride Garden these days. She is easily spotted on the Anise that was planted by Trina's, Ariel's, and Stephanie's classrooms in spring. What kind of bug is she? Her abdomen reminds one of what other bug? Can we add a page about her to our *Good Bug, Bad Bug* book (she got left out!)? Younger students might draw, color, and label parts of this bug; older students might do Internet research and take photos.

Seed Germination Supplies

We now have WonderSoil® for germinating seeds. It comes in loose form and as pellets, and it will expand quite a bit with the addition of water (for every 1 part soil, add 2 to 2.5 parts water). We have a new shipment of pots and trays, too. A heat placed underneath the tray that contains the pots will make the seeds in the pots germinate more quickly. Remember also to cover the pots with plastic, but NOT airtight!



1 pellet in small, 2 in larger pot. Plant seed after soil has expanded.



Seed germination materials in shed: Pots on top, trays and soil on middle, and heat mats on bottom shelf. White container on floor contains WonderSoil that has already been hydrated.

Cafeteria Scraps to Black Gold

It took some time (6-9 months) to get rich! The cafeteria kitchen fruit and vegetable waste that was loaded into our black compost bins last winter by the 2nd grade classes is now available to amend our soil and for students to use in conducting investigations about plant growth. This year, Heather Decker (North's new Chinese teacher) and a small group of 5th grade students are going to become our local experts and "speed up" our composting program...more news about that later!



Cafeteria vegetable scraps in compost bins...



...become black gold for Panther Pride Garden!

Red Noodle Bean Plants: Fruition!

Our magnificent teepee of red noodle bean plants was started with just a few seeds that were harvested from a previous plant and donated by a parent. Mindy Stansberry's first grade students germinated and transplanted them (as well as Chinese peppers) to our Chinese bed, and with the help of parent caretakers over the summer, Holly Walls' class is now able to measure and eat them!



Red noodle bean teepee and peppers in oriental bed.



Collectively, what is the length of our red noodle beans?.

Cart for the Classroom

We now have a cart with large wheels that can rolled into the classroom with whatever shed supplies are needed. It also can be used to hydrate soil to add to EarthBoxes in the classroom (but if soil is completely dry, dampen outside first to avoid exposing students to soil "dust"). Please return the cart to its parking spot when finished. We are in the process of getting another cart with a table and edges that make it easy to do potting and transplanting in the classroom.



Classroom cart is ready to roll!

Join the Worm Group

Susan Yohe's kindergarten class just did, with the help of Holly Wall's first graders! Worm your way into the science standards: ecosystems, life cycles, energy, and more! We have an extra worm bin and ample curriculum material (Jim will deliver) and "in-house" expertise (consult with Summer, Holly, Laura, Sara, or Susan).



Items Need a Classroom Home

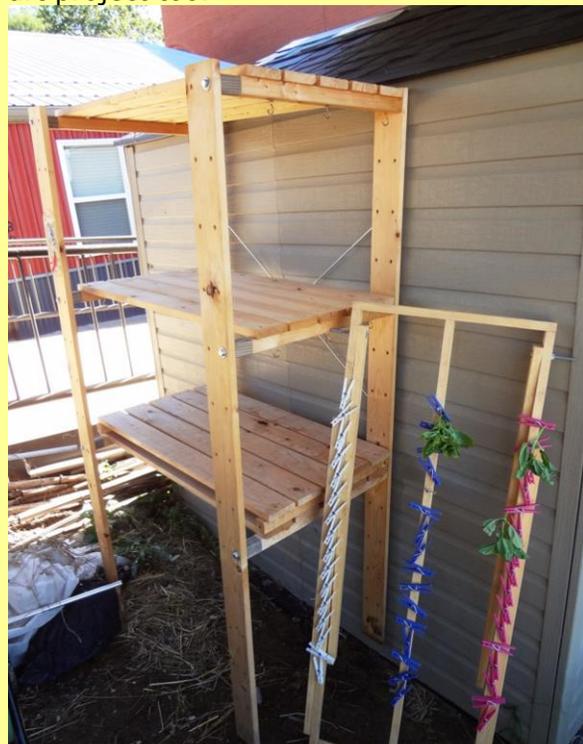
Jim Rye jim.rye@mail.wvu.edu can deliver items and help you get started (EarthBoxes are clean).

Tall Wooden Grow-Lab

Great for a grade 4 or 5 class. I has storage space on top and underneath. Jim Rye has the fluorescent light fixtures in his basement and hopes someone wants it soon!

Drying Rack

Wow: It has color-coded close-pins and even comes with basil! It is great for drying flowers too. Students can predict, measure, and graph water loss over time and figure out how much of an herb or flower is water (nice mathematics and science connections). We have zinnias, anise, and basil ready to dry. This could make a nice art project too.



Wooden grow-lab stand (get lights from Jim) and drying rack

EarthBoxes and Trellising

Try raising different varieties of lettuce. Grow some snow peas. There are many math and science standards that can be met. There is also and EarthBox curriculum lesson all set to go for snow peas. We have learned how to control the fungus gnats, too (although lettuce and peas won't attract many): Don't use EarthBox cover, let water reservoir deplete before refilling, and use yellow sticky tape.