

Parent emails

From: Scotch Oakburn
Sent: Friday, 20 April 2012 9:56 AM
To: Caroline
Subject: Sustainable Gardening Parent Letter

Dear Parents

In support of our Unit of Inquiry about sustainable gardening, we are asking families to talk with children about their gardens at home. The children have decided to plant a kitchen garden to support their cooking experiences.

Focussing on sustainability, we are exploring ways of establishing our garden with no financial outlay. We have collected seeds and cuttings and are looking to add to our parsley, chives, mint, rosemary and baby spinach.

Any time you could spare to explore your herbs at home would be fantastic. Children are encouraged to bring along a cutting, seed or similar to share with the class and contribute to our kitchen garden.

Through making connections between school and home, the depth of students' learning and understanding is extended and consolidated. It also puts them in the position of sharing their learning with their peers, enhancing the learning experiences of self and others.

Thank you for your wonderful support to date, and we look forward to establishing our new and enlarged garden space.

Kind Regards

Caroline & Cherie

Plan for and provide opportunities for parents and carers to support learning activities at home or school or in the community

Hello Caroline,




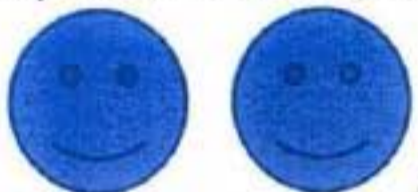


I have had a wonderful conversation this evening with Mia about her day at school. I have learnt many interesting facts about worms and also about the new class project; growing a sustainable garden. I am also attending school and mentioned I too had a new project, that involved coming up with a design to fix a problem. Mia responded to me by saying, "I can help, I'm good at fixing problems", with that in mind I'm wondering if I could be involved in the new sustainable garden project, possibly designing something with the children that might help the garden? Mia is very excited at the idea and I would be very grateful if your class would like to help me with my problem.

Warm Regards

Anne

Assessment Rubric – Sustainable Kitchen Gardening

MIA

Concepts	Key Understanding 1	Key Understanding 2	Key Understanding 3
 <p>Worms</p>	 <p>they wiggle</p>	 <p>they sometimes eat our vegies</p>	 <p>I like them because I get to hold them and feed them</p>
 <p>Herbs</p>	<p>strawberries parsley chives</p>	<p>put seeds into the holes into the dirt and cover them</p>	<p>We are going to share our plants and use them in cooking.</p>
 <p>Compost</p>	<p>we can put our vegetables and fruit and mix them all up</p>	<p>we give our compost to our vegie garden</p>	<p>We give it to our worms as well.</p>

Hi Caroline

My daughter Layla has been enjoying the sustainable gardening project and has been relaying all kinds of interesting projects and has particularly been enjoying the worms. We have a worm farm at home and the activities and tasks at school have sparked a new interest in our worms at home! She also relayed interest to her grandfather about the herb garden at school and enjoyed digging out baby red spinach with him at home and bringing them into school to replant. The gardening project has also been helpful in Layla enquiring about different varieties of vegetables, she has been enticed to try a few new vegis at home which is always exciting with a fussy 4 year old who prefers only to eat carrots! As a parent, it is fantastic that the children are learning from such an early age how to be responsible for the environment and resourceful with existing resources.

Kind regards

Katy



Hi Caroline

Following up on your email on sustainable gardening from April, Gabe and I have been exploring our new garden. It's more than 2000sqm and was planted in the early 1900's by an old Launceston family, the Gee's. In it's heyday it was much admired! Gabe and I have discovered and are eating grapes, figs, tomatoes, oregano, apples, pears, raspberries and planted capsicums, sage, basil and parsley. We even have a pepper tree! And some nut trees I haven't identified yet...

But the thing Gabriel really loves is the large border of bamboo in the garden, and we have been cutting it and making things from it, including making supports for my tomato plants and raspberry bushes. He would like to bring in some bamboo cuttings to plant, so the class could eventually supply all it's own sticks from the bamboo - would that be possible? Gabe says bamboo is a really useful plant!! (Please note, our bamboo is a running variety.) I realise this is not a one unit proposition, but it's what came together in Gabe as we explored all the possibilities!

Let me know what you think, or please discuss with Gabe in class.

Regards

Nina





