

KIDS GARDEN.txt

b YHAH3\E  
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>>> THIS GARDEN IS A JOY TO BEHOLD.\E  
IT'S THRIVING AND FULL OF LIFE.\E  
WHAT MAKES IT TRULY SPECIAL IS THAT IT'S LOCATED IN THE HEART OF AN ELEMENTARY  
SCHOOL IN A BUSTLING METROPOLITAN AREA.\E  
>> I WANT YOU TO GRAB YOUR BUCKETS BECAUSE THE FIRST THING WE'RE GONNA DO IS WEED  
OUTSIDE IN THE FRONT OF THE GARDEN.\E  
>> THIS GARDEN ISN'T TENDED BY PROFESSIONAL GARDENERS, BUT RATHER SCHOOL CHILDREN.\E  
>> TODAY, I'M AT LUELLE MERRETT ELEMENTARY SCHOOL IN FORT WORTH, TEXAS, WHERE THEY  
ARE TEACHING THEIR KIDS TO BE GOOD STEWARDS OF NATURE THROUGH A UNIQUE OUTDOOR  
LEARNING ENVIRONMENT.\E  
>> OKAY, GUYS, TODAY I WANT YOU TO WRITE ABOUT WHAT YOU SEE, WHAT YOU SMELL, AND  
WHAT YOU HEAR IN THE GARDEN.\E  
>> FOR THIS CLASS, STUDENTS AREN'T LEARNING IN A TRADITIONAL CLASSROOM.\E  
INSTEAD, THEY'RE GETTING HANDS-ON EXPERIENCE IN A GARDEN THEY HELPED PLANT.\E  
LISA GOWAN IS A FOURTH GRADE TEACHER WHO'S SEEN THE POSITIVE EFFECTS THE GARDEN HAS  
HAD ON HER STUDENTS.\E  
>> THEY HAVE LEARNED WHERE THEIR FOOD COMES FROM, HOW IT'S GROWN, THE PROCESS THAT  
FARMERS GO THROUGH TO PUT FOOD ON THEIR TABLE.\E  
AND THEN JUST AN ENJOYMENT OF BEING OUTSIDE AND ENJOYING THE BUTTERFLIES, THE  
HUMMINGBIRDS, THE SPECIES OF BIRDS THAT HAVE FOUND THEIR WAY TO THE GARDEN.\E  
>> THIS GARDEN APPEARS TO BE AN ESTABLISHED GARDEN, BUT IT'S ACTUALLY ONLY A  
YEAR OLD.\E  
AT ONE TIME, THIS SPACE WAS A PARKING LOT, BUT NOW IT IS A LIVE, SUSTAINABLE  
ENVIRONMENT.\E  
>> THE CONSTRUCTION OF THE GARDEN WAS STARTED IN THE SUMMER OF 2005.\E  
ALL THIS STRUCTURES-- THE ARBORS AND THE PERGOLA WERE BUILT WITH THE ASSISTANCE OF  
THE FORT WORTH SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT.\E  
THE COMMUNITY SERVICE WORKERS WOULD COME OUT ON THE WEEKENDS AND CUT THE LUMBER AND  
CONSTRUCTED ALL OF THE STRUCTURES.\E  
LAY THE ROCKS OR THE PATHWAYS, SPREAD THE DIRT-- ALL OF THE BIG JOBS.\E  
THE GROUPS THAT CONTRIBUTED TO THE GARDEN WERE FIRST THE RAINWATER FOUNDATION, WHERE  
WE OBTAINED OUR GRANT.\E  
AND THEN THE RAINWATER ENVIRONMENTAL ALLIANCE FOR LEARNING, AND IT'S A GROUP OF  
PEOPLE THAT BELIEVE IN PLACING OUTDOOR LEARNING ENVIRONMENTS IN SCHOOL SO THAT  
CHILDREN CAN BE IN TOUCH WITH THE ENVIRONMENT-- ACTUALLY TOUCH THE PLANTS, GROW THE  
PLANTS, SEE HOW ALL THE SYSTEMS INTERACT IN NATURE.\E  
>> WITH THIS COOL WEATHER COMING, IT'S A PERFECT TIME TO PLANT COOL WEATHER  
VEGETABLES.\E  
HERE AT THE SCHOOL TODAY, I HAVE SOME HELPERS TO HELP ME OUT WITH SOME WORK  
I HAVE.\E  
HEY, GUYS, HOW ARE YOU?\E  
>> All: GOOD!\E  
>> ALL RIGHT.\E  
ARE YOU GONNA HELP ME TODAY PLANT SOME VEGETABLES?\E  
>> All: YES!\E  
>> THE FIRST THING WE HAVE TO DO IS PREPARE THE SOIL.\E  
NEXT, I TEACH THE STUDENTS ABOUT SOME WIGGLY WORKERS THAT HELP THE GARDEN.\E  
LOOK AT THE EARTHWORMS.\E  
EARTHWORMS ARE SO ESSENTIAL TO EVERY GARDEN.\E  
THEY MAKE TUNNELS FOR THE ROOTS, AND IT BRINGS IN AIR.\E  
DOES ANYONE KNOW WHAT AN EARTHWORM CASTING IS?\E  
>> UHH--\E  
>> EARTHWORMS EAT DIRT AND MICROBIOLOGICAL MATERIAL IN THE EARTH.\E  
IT'S KIND OF A WEIRD CONCEPT, BUT EARTHWORM CASTINGS LOOK LIKE SOIL, BUT IT'S WORM  
POOP, AND IT'S WONDERFUL FERTILIZER.\E  
SO WHAT'S THE BEST WAY TO FEED VEGETABLE PLANTS?\E  
>> WITH THE EARTHWORMS?\E  
>> EARTHWORM CASTINGS IS A REALLY GOOD WAY, AND WE CAN SIMPLY DO THAT BY PUTTING  
EARTHWORMS IN THE SOIL, CAN'T WE?\E  
IT DOESN'T BOTHER YOU TO TOUCH THEM?\E  
OH, THAT'S GREAT.\E

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SO YOU ALL ARE OKAY WITH TOUCHING EARTHWORMS.\E  
>> ALL: YEP.\E  
>> YAY, I LOVE THAT, 'CAUSE THEY'RE OUR FRIENDS.\E  
AFTER A LITTLE EARTHWORM^101, WE TALK ABOUT WHAT IT TAKES TO MAKE A GARDEN^GROW.\E  
WHAT DO YOU THINK MIGHT BE THE MOST IMPORTANT THING THAT A GARDEN NEEDS FOR A GARDEN  
TO^GROW?\E  
>> WATER.\E  
>> WATER.\E  
I HEARD THAT AT THE SCHOOL, YOU GUYS COLLECT WATER.\E  
YOU GUYS WANT TO SHOW ME WHERE YOU COLLECT YOUR WATER?\E  
>> YES.\E  
>> THIS IS GREAT, GUYS.\E  
THESE ARE YOUR RAIN BARRELS.\E  
YEP, GO AHEAD, FILL IT^UP.\E  
THIS RAINWATER IS FULL OF NATURAL NUTRIENTS,^OKAY?\E  
AND PLANTS RESPOND SO MUCH BETTER TO RAIN WATER THAN WATER THAT'S HAD TO GO THROUGH  
A PROCESSING TREATMENT.\E  
NEXT, WE GET TO WORK MAKING THE^ROWS.\E  
PREPPING THE PLANTS IS THE NEXT^STEP.\E  
IT'S REALLY IMPORTANT TO SOAK YOUR PLANTS BEFORE YOU PLANT^THEM.\E  
IT SORT OF HELPS THEM SO IT'S NOT SUCH A SHOCK TO THEIR SYSTEM.\E  
LET'S JUST SUBMERGE IT DOWN GENTLY AND GET IT WHERE THE WATER SOAKS IN  
REALLY^GOOD.\E  
GOOD JOB.\E  
NOW THAT THEY'RE PREPARED, WE CAN START PLANTING.\E  
THESE GUYS ARE GREAT LITTLE GARDENERS.\E  
AND BEFORE I KNOW IT, OUR COOL WEATHER VEGETABLES ARE IN THE EARTH.\E  
ALL THEY NEED NOW IS A LITTLE WATER.\E  
WE PUT THE WATER FROM THE SCHOOL'S RAIN BARRELS TO GOOD^USE.\E  
>> YOU KNOW WHAT?\E  
THIS WOULD BE A REALLY GOOD TIME TO SPRINKLE THE EARTHWORMS INSIDE THE GARDEN.\E  
SO ARE YOU GUYS GONNA HELP WITH^THAT?\E  
>> YES.\E  
>> YEAH!\E  
[^GIGGLING^]\E  
>> IT TICKLES!\E  
>> THROUGH THIS GARDEN, STUDENTS ARE LEARNING ABOUT THE BALANCE OF NATURE.\E  
THANKS TO THE COMBINED EFFORTS OF DIFFERENT PEOPLE AND GROUPS, GARDENS LIKE THESE  
ARE TEACHING THIS GENERATION ABOUT NATURE, AND IT'S A LESSON THAT THEY ARE MORE THAN  
HAPPY TO LEARN.\E  
HEY, GUYS, THANKS SO MUCH FOR HELPING OUT TODAY.\E  
>> ALL: YOU'RE WELCOME, ELIZABETH^ANNA.\E  
>> TO FIND OUT MORE ABOUT A DIFFERENT KIND OF CLASSROOM, VISIT US ONLINE AT  
YOURHOUSE^ANDHOME.TV.\E  
>>> WE'RE TAKING A LITTLE BREAK, BUT WHEN WE GET BACK, IT IS ALL ABOUT YOUR HOUSE  
AND^HOME.\E  
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