

May 1, 2019

Dear PTA,

I want to thank you for your generous support of the Didion garden. With your help, we have been able to maintain our garden and grow a large assortment of fruits and vegetables. Our students have been able to experience planting, growing, and then eating fresh produce. My hope is that it is a lifelong lesson for them. Here are some of our garden highlights for this school year:

### **Beginning of the Year**

Watermelon - The kids enjoyed tasting Didion grown watermelon.

Popcorn - We grew popping corn, pulled off the kernels, and sent it home for Halloween.

Sage - We dried sage and sent it home for the Thanksgiving holiday.

Pumpkins - Kindergarten harvested pumpkins for the fall.

### **Winter**

#### *Fourth Annual Salad Harvest*

- We planted onions, lettuce, kale, kolrabi, cabbage, broccoli, beets, and cauliflower. We harvested and then enjoyed a giant salad

Fava beans planted. Kids enjoyed tasting them in the spring

Garlic planted by middle school

### **Spring**

Milkweed is in bloom

Vegetable plantings: radishes, carrots, tomatoes, cucumbers, beans, squash, potatoes, pumpkins

(The potatoes will be harvested and cooked in a solar cooker at the end of the school year.)

Flowers: sweet peas are in bloom

Kids recently planted zinnias

Open House: Lady bugs will be released by students in the garden during Open House.

### **Current Garden focus: vertical planting**

We are going to try to grow pole beans and cucumbers on a teepee trellis.

### **Thinking about the future:**

- **Pizza making** - Tomatoes and veggies grown during the summer will be used to make a sauce for pizza in the fall.
- **California Native garden:** We'd like to plant a water-wise garden with California native plants adjacent to our current garden. I am looking for a master gardener or landscape architect to donate some time.
- **Heritage garden:** I'd like to see a heritage garden with some of the same vegetables grown by Thomas Jefferson and George Washington.

The garden is a very busy place! Thank you for making this possible for Didion kids!

Nancy Keating