

A Year of Planting



Incredibly Determined to Soar Class

North Forest Pines Elementary

Classroom Staff:

Rita Vermeulen, NBCT	teacher
CeCe Hodge	Instructional Assistant
Alexia Garcia	Instructional Assistant
Paula Foster	Instructional Assistant

Special Thanks To:

Betsy Wilson	Science Specialist
Whitney Mitchell	Physical Therapist
Cassie Hillman	Occupational Therapist
Syreeta Smith	Principal
WakeEd Partnership	
Students and Families	

In the Fall of 2014, our class was fortunate to receive a WakeEd Partnership grant for our study of life science. We began our year long project with the input and assistance of our science specialist, Ms. Betsy Wilson.



We enlisted the help of families and friends to assemble two Green Circle raised planting beds. Once our planters were ready, we filled them with soil and started planning our garden!



We spent the fall and winter learning all we could about seeds and plants. We sorted seeds, experimented to see how stems work, and read about how plants grow.







In all of these activities, we practiced many of our communication, fine motor, and academic goals. We were helped by our classroom teachers and by Ms. Wilson, our speech, occupational, and physical therapists. We were off to a great start on our year-long project!

As Spring approached, we were ready for planting! We started our tiny vegetables in the fingers of disposable gloves! We were so excited to watch them grow, taped to our classroom windows.



Each day our seeds grew taller and taller until they were ready to be placed in our planters.



As our seeds grew, we wanted to learn more about vegetables. Our class read the book Stone Soup. Well, that soup looked so good, that we wanted to make our own! First, we needed to get our ingredients. FIELD TRIP!!

Our teachers, Ms. Cassie (our occupational therapist) and Ms. Whitney (our physical therapist), walked with us to Harris Teeter.



During our trip, we explored the sight, feel, and smell of different fruits and vegetables.





We also were able to practice our math skills of counting and money, since we had to pay for our groceries!



When we returned to school, we got out the big pot, washed our hands, and were ready to cook our own stone soup.



Our parents said our soup was delicious!

As all of these activities were going on, our garden grew and grew!



The first plants to mature were the lettuce plants. We picked , washed , and sent some home to our families. Lilly's mom blended it up in Lilly's dinner. Jaidah's mom made a delicious salad.



The next plant to harvest was our cabbage. Our great, big, enormous cabbage!! We decided to read the book, The Great, Big, Enormous Turnip, rewritten by Jackie Andrews. That might give us ideas about how to get that plant out of the soil!





Well, Ms. Alexia finally pulled it out and we saw some big roots!

Time for more fine motor, sensory, and communication practice!

We were ready to try our hands at making cole slaw.





Well, since we still have vegetables growing in our garden, we are not finished with our adventures yet! We see carrot muffins, fried eggplant, and tomato and bean salad in our future!

We learned so much this year and we are grateful to WakeEd Partnership for helping us on this adventure.

Look for more exciting activities from us!