

BARN Newsletter

Building Agricultural Responsibility in Our Neighborhood

Summer Updates

We are all very excited to begin a new school year and welcome everyone back... including our friends living on Sunshine Farm. This summer Ms. Sunshine and her lambs, Rain and Bo, went to Quad K Farm (Rinker Farm). Our two goats, Gingerbread and Bambi went to the Miller's, and our hens went to live with Mrs. Roth. They all received excellent care and lots of attention. Thank you to the families who took them in over the summer months.

We are anxious to get started with new projects that will engage our kids and provide wonderful learning opportunities.



Ms. Rosemary's Garden

Our schoolyard community garden was full of broccoli, squash, peas, beans, cucumbers, and tomatoes this summer. Thank you to all who harvested and kept the gardens weeded. Mrs. Scott was able to harvest and freeze some of our vegetables. We will use them throughout the school year.

Fall Planting

We will be planting additional apple trees and blueberry and raspberry bushes in the Environmental Education Laboratory this fall. We are looking forward to enjoying these tasty treats!



Upcoming Projects and Activities

We have a variety of projects planned for this year. Kindergarten scientists will be investigating the types of animals that inhabit our schoolyard throughout the seasons. First grade scientists will raise chicks to add to our barnyard. Second grade will collect and sell eggs gathered in the henhouse. Third grade will study soil and how it impacts agricultural practices. Fourth grade will be working on setting up a solar panel to generate light for the hens this winter in order to increase egg production. Fifth grade will raise trout and study energy resources.

Additional projects will include investigating the use of hydroponics to grow lettuce, harvesting and cooking with the vegetables grown, and learning how to care for our animals.



Students gave Rain, our lamb, her bath in the barnyard.

Students will work in the greenhouse this fall. They will be planting lettuce and cucumbers and setting up research projects based on "I wonders..." and past experiences. Our learning partners, Mr. Willie Lantz, University of Maryland Extension Office, and Dr. James Thompson, West Virginia University, will be working with students on these projects.

Dr. Dave Miller is collaborating with Ms. Weinbrenner, our art teacher, to design lessons and activities for the fifth grade sundial project.

We are looking forward to a year full of learning and new experiences. Stay tuned for updates of our adventures!

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