

# Yuba Environmental Science Charter Academy November Garden Newsletter

Tena Brown

Bonnie Plants has a program for third graders to compete in raising cabbages. They send the tiny plants in plastic capsules and they arrived at the beginning of October. Students planted them into cups on October 6, and each student started documenting their own plant. We transplanted them on week three to the greenhouse. Due to school plans to completely redo the greenhouse interior, I have not planted anything inside, but the committee assured me that we could put the cabbage babies inside.



There are only three cherry tomato plants in the garden, but they currently have a large crop that students enjoy them after their chores. Students often fill their pockets with them to eat later. I found it necessary to advise one young man that he might regret putting them in his back pocket. I have also cut up some Armenian cucumbers for students to eat after working.

Kindergarten was looking forward to some of the pumpkins. As most of the orange ones were under vines and hiding between the chicken run and the raised bed, it was necessary for the teacher and me to do the harvesting. I donned my coveralls, hat and scarf, and gloves and crawled under vines that had been directed part way up the fence to discover 14 sugar babies amongst the leaves. Altogether we harvested 32 that were orange. There are quite a few green ones still on the vines. It was enough for kindergarten and the preschool.



First grade is collecting the seed from the Showy Milkweed. They love seeing the pods break open. They also are great observers of all the insects that gather on the blossoms in the native plant bed.

Junior high has been planting a lot of native plants on the hill behind the garden. Their teacher also has them involved in an experiment sponsored by NASA. They received simulated Mars soil and are experimenting with what it might grow. It is a strange substance that seems like very fine dust when dry, binds together when damp, and runs all over when much water is added.