

Garden Master Explorer Guide

Overview

- Teach children specifics about water cistern, Coinker, composting programs, CA Native Butterfly garden, plant varieties and crops being grown
- Train selected 1st and 5th grade students to be garden ambassadors (garden tour guides and representatives)

Garden Ambassador Scripts

- Use grade-level scripts to share about the garden and provide children opportunities to practice their reading and public speaking skills

Information To Share With Children

- **Coinker**
 - Coinker was named by a student and collects spare change for the garden programs.
- **Water Cisterns**
 - Several years ago 5th graders participated in a water cycles program where they calculated the area of the Kindergarten roof to determine the amount of water that runs off every second during a rain storm. Based on those calculations, they designed a Water Harvesting Program for the garden that includes the big and little water cisterns, gutters, rain chains and diverter pipes that run underground.
 - Each large cistern holds 500 gallons of water for a total of 1,500 gallons and fills in a day's worth of steady rain. Students and parent volunteers use this "recycled water" for crops rather than using city water. One of the many lessons about conservation the students learn in the garden.
- **Produce Stand**
 - All produce not used by individual classes is sold to TMA families. The money raised helps fund PTO programs as well as the Garden.
- **2nd Grade Vermicomposting Program**
 - 2nd grade students practice science and math concepts through this fun, hands-on program. Students collect food scraps at lunchtime, bring them to the garden where they are chopped and fed to Red Wiggler Worms. The worms LOVE decaying food, which they consume and then create waste, known as "worm castings". The castings are nutrient rich soil that the students then till back into the garden soil which helps create strong, delicious, nutrient rich fruits and vegetables.
- **4th Grade Hot Composting**
 - 4th grade students practice science and math concepts through this program also. The students collect brown and green organic matter from around the school and home, like grass and leaves. They combine the two together and then let small microscopic decomposers break down the matter until it becomes nutrient rich new soil that's tilled back into the garden soil. The students learn they are making a

valuable contribution to our ecosystem by using materials that normally get thrown into the trash.

- **California Native Butterfly Garden**
 - This area is full of native plants such as milkweed that attract butterflies, hummingbirds and bees. The natural wood fences encourage the caterpillars to build their chrysalis at eye level where students can observe. The 2nd grade students use this area to learn about butterfly life cycles, part of their 2nd grade science curriculum.
- **Touch and Smell Garden**
 - Is full of plants for the students to touch and smell like Rosemary, Lamb's Ear, Lavender, succulents, and Chocolate Geranium.

Explorer Instructions (students rotate through explorer role 2-3 times annually)

- **In the 1st, 2nd and 3rd visits, be a tour guide around the garden.**
 - use permanent signs as guides through different beds/crops, Native Butterfly Garden and Touch and Smell garden (use T & S map from blog)
 - In Touch & Smell garden touch, smell, and discuss everything
 - have children read/observe signs and discuss
 - have children articulate what crops are growing
 - ask children which parts of the plants we eat (carrot-root, lettuce-leaf, tomatoes-fruit, artichoke-flower)
 - tour Butterfly Garden and look for Milkweed, chrysalis and butterflies.
 - hide garden buddies and have children search for them if time
 - 3rd and 5th graders will be invited to be Garden Ambassadors at spring TMA school tours; keep an eye out for children who excel
 - **Note:** You can use the garden ambassador scripts as a resource to talk about each section of the garden.
- **4th, 5th and 6th visits to the garden, after winter training:**
 - Cooking Demos in the garden. More information to be given at the Winter training.
 - Play Nutrition Game (instructions and game pieces will be provided)
 - Have students choose one area of the garden and present information about that area to their classmates.
 - **Note:** You can cut the garden ambassador scripts into individual slips of paper and have the students read from them during their presentations.
 - **Student presenters will learn to:**
 - read a script while maintaining eye contact with audience
 - speak loud and clear
 - use hand gestures to maintain interest
 - stand tall, still and confidently
 - respond to questions and engage audience
 - smile and project self confidence

General Info for all Garden Masters

- **To request repairs or supplies: Call or text Daniel Roberts (949) 285-9323**
 - Barn, shed and gate codes 5278 – no children inside
 - Close and lock barn & shed
 - South gate to remain locked during school hours
- Supplies and tools
 - Return clean tools to where you found them
 - Have children fold left and right glove together before returning to bin
 - Rinse dirty rags in trough and hang to dry, put away dry rags
- Water
 - FINGER TEST SOIL BEFORE WATERING – don't assume it needs water
 - Use cistern water first
 - Turn valves inside barn and at hoses off
- Trash and Weed Disposal
 - Trash, weeds, cuttings, and cut branches go in the school trash bins that are around the garden.
 - Trash bins $\frac{3}{4}$ full go into hallway between garden and playground, between Shenton and Hayden classrooms. Mr. Rangel and the Custodial Staff will take them from there.
- Green Bucks
 - Reward for the 3 E's: Engaged, Enthusiastic and Extra hard work
 - Redeemed for \$0.50 at Tuesday Produce Stand
- **All GM info and class visitation calendar are at TMAGARDEN.ORG**
- TMAGARDEN@GMAIL.COM is email address to contact Brandon Dove or Suzie Won
- Volunteer hours, teachers sign for garden visits, Garden Team signs for trainings