

12.8.11—

Collaborative Planting a Wintry Success!

With some winter ground color brightening the scene under a sunny December sky, the Pre-K and K students mingled en masse out in the West End Garden for a collaborative winter planting event. We planted all sorts of bulbs, like onion and garlic, along with over seventy-five pansies and snapdragons that should endure the cooler weather. As you can imagine, with the Kindergarten students assisting the Pre-K students, the energy level was sky high, and students were begging me throughout for another hole to dig and another flower from the trays to plant—we had plenty to hand out throughout the planting.



This month we're throwing winter rye seeds on the garden grounds to give some color and prepare the soil for a more thorough renovation next spring.



With the December 8 planting, our beds will now be full until we regenerate them early next spring.

Here's where the volunteer support came in so handy—first, we received a wonderful flat of pansies from Jennifer Webb-Goetz (thanks so much, Jennifer!), and Esmeralda Axler joined me on Wednesday morning for some dirt removal and soil replacement to prepare for just the first of the flower beds (Esmeralda, thanks for being willing to get dirty out there on a very cold morning!)—we'll eventually add these all along the outer wall, in addition to installing some hanging plants on those hard plastic bomb wall surfaces to begin a more ambitious project of adding growing space while making greater use of the resources in the garden.

The highlight of the experience was just watching the kids getting their hands dirty and helping each other and pleading for another flower to plant—that was the best part! Now the students will be able to make visits out to the garden through the winter months to see the growth



We allow hands to get dirty when in the garden—it helps instill an appreciation for the earth and for plant life.

that came from their hands. In the meantime, we'll be naming a couple of volunteer work days in January and February to get the grounds ready for an explosion of additional planting and growth throughout the springtime.

Stay tuned!

