

GREEN TEAM KIDS CLUB MONTHLY RECAP - September 2011:

Welcome Back Green Teamers!

It's the beginning of another fun-filled school year and it's been exciting to see all the familiar faces plus a few new friends as well. Although school was out for the summer, things don't stop happening for us. First of all, a great big "Congratulations" goes out to our kids who participated in the **Big Green Race** at the Alameda County Fair this past June. The Fairlands Green Team was represented by four 5th graders, **Aaron G.**, **Alex P.**, **Kyle K.**, and **Erin H.**, otherwise known as "**The Green Lanterns**". Faced against the clock and challenged by a series of tasks that tested their knowledge, skill, and teamwork, they met the obstacles head on to finish in a strong **2nd place!** For their great job, they each received a Fairlands Earth Week t shirt, Slurpee coupon, and Coldstone Ice Cream gift card. Thank you to **Lori Carducci**, their fearless leader who organized and chaperoned this activity.



In the garden, things have really been growing! After a long hot summer, we were welcomed by an abundance of **tomatoes, zucchini, strawberries,** and yummy **grapes** in September! The kids thoroughly enjoyed tasting the fresh picked fruits and veggies that they've lovingly cared for all these months. Our flowers and herb beds have also been doing well and we've had frequent **hummingbird** and **butterfly** visits which are always a thrill. Of course some of our not so favorite visitors- aphids, a yucky garden pest, have also returned. We have begun our **homemade, non-toxic pesticide regimen** again but fortunately, we've spied many hungry ladybugs helping us out as well! In case you're wondering- *our secret recipe includes 2 tablespoons vegetable oil, 1 teaspoon dish soap, and 1 teaspoon garlic powder added to 1 quart of water.* This mixture is harmless to us and easily rinsed off but pests think it tastes nasty and leave our plants alone. Another big thank you and welcome to some new garden parents who've helped us this month- **Michelle Bostaph, Debbie Terrell,** and **Hao Pan.**

Our first **Green Team Kids** meeting happened on September 9th. Usually I will give you advance notice through email but it seems that our club is growing just as well as our garden. We had almost **200 kids** sign up for the Green Team so it took a lot longer than expected to build our email list! This month we played a game called "**Mystery Plant**". Kids were given a list of clues that included color, leaf description, or even fragrance to help them identify various plants in our garden. In the end, it was a lot of fun and they learned that they can name many of the items we grow by sight, touch, or smell now. Our next meeting will be held on **Friday October 14th** in room **29**. Please remind your child that this class is at the far end of the playground near the tether ball poles. For this activity, we will host a **cooking class** with **kid friendly recipes utilizing ingredients** we've been **growing**. Assisted by parent helpers, the kids will put together simple and yummy snacks, and of course- eat

them! Fruit water, strawberry smoothies, fruit kebabs, and tomatoes with pesto sauce are on the menu of the day.

Also, in addition to our monthly recap, I would like to mention that the Green Team has a nifty little page on the fairlandspta.com website. There you can find fun facts, updates on our recycling efforts, interesting websites, recipes, and Mrs. Peterson, our librarian's, monthly Go Green book of the month recommendation. If your child reads any of Mrs. Peterson's selections and would like to write a review on it, there is a form next to the Go Green book section. We will display it on our Green Wall and he or she will receive a small prize for sharing his thoughts. **Octobers Go Green Book of the Month** is "*Just A Dream*" by Chris Allsburg. It's a story the whole family can enjoy.

So that's all for now but rest assured that we have a lot more plans in store for all you Green people! Also, if you have any ideas or suggestions for Kids Club activities, we'd love to hear from you. In the meantime, here's a little video about one possibility for the use of solar energy. It's kind of crazy and brilliant all at the same time!

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Ep4L18zOEYI>

Best Green Wishes,

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