

SUSTAINABLE STUDENTS

Milton State School's Food Garden Project



Most children love to cultivate plants and to watch them grow. At Milton SS, in our outside school hours care (MOSHC) area, we established a food garden and a variety of ecosystems where our students could grow their own herbs and plants. We believe that gardening builds on that basic human need to link with the world around us. Our garden appeals to all children, particularly those who take a little more time to settle to an activity. Once their hands are in the dirt,



they seem to relax and focus on the task at hand. We planned to create a low maintenance, drought-tolerant garden that also enhanced the surrounding play area.

To make the garden sustainable the children propagate their own herbs and plants and recycle plant materials. Once a month we hold a community plant market. Funds raised are donated to appeals such as the Haiti disaster or Victorian Fire Appeal or spent on purchasing gardening materials. Our children are very proud of the fact that they have attended to these plants and have been able to sell them and raise money towards some great causes. We are discovering things we didn't even plan on, such as the invasion of lizards, ants, dragonflies and other creatures.



We recycle by using two different composting systems, a standard bin and a rotating bin, where we compare the workings and effectiveness of each. We also have worm farms where we recycle food scraps, paper and leaves.



Our pond and water tank complete the garden. The pond is our 'wetland environment' and we are very excited to have heard our very first frog croaking after a recent downpour!! The tank ensures that we never run out of water!

The Food Garden project was instigated by MOSHC staff and students. MOSHC staff support the students to repot and relocate plants, propagate from seed/cuttings, mulch and water, cook using garden produce, manage the plant market and most importantly observe their world around them. The project is funded from through MOSHC (P&C budget), plus donations and plant market sales.

We plan to formalise our 'MOSHC student rangers' into a team who are responsible for animals and environmental projects. As we are outgrowing our garden area, our next big step is to expand into the local park and create a community garden space to give local community members their own garden plot. We are hoping to win a community gardening grant and gain support from the Brisbane City Council for this growing project.



Milton State School

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