

GREEN GAZETTE

Voice of the PCCS Green Team

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Prepping your Garden Bed!

By Kerme

It is finally the season to start prepping your garden bed! Make sure tools are clean and accessible. Plan and sort your seeds or small plants. Seeds can be planted in a reusable or biodegradable cup or container to be transplanted into the garden outside. Seed packets have instructions on them — make sure you follow the instructions for your seeds. Get your garden bed ready



by adding organic fertilizer so that it has rich nutrients; for example: compost, grass clippings, leaves, kitchen scraps and yard scraps). Add about 1 inch of compost. Make sure you harden off your seedlings before transplanting them to the garden. The green team can already imagine your beautiful and possibly tasty garden!

Choosing your Plants — Zones

By Ellie and Audrey

Will my garden grow? This is often a question we ask when choosing our outdoor plants. The most critical thing to know is which growing zone you are in. In Grayslake, we are in growing zone 5b. Here is a list of vegetables that you could start inside and then transplant later in April or May:

- Cabbage, Pepper, Tomatoes, Eggplant

In mid to late April you can plant the following vegetables:

- Kale, Broccoli, Beets, Onions, Peas, Carrots

Some flowers that you can grow in zone 5 are the following:

- Violets, Sunflowers, Poppies, Pinks, Phlox, Bleeding Hearts, Black Eyed Susan



By Allyson

On Thursday, April 13th the Green Team offered a composting class to the PCCS community. Composting is where you

throw your uneaten food scraps so they can decompose into nutrients for the soil. This nutrient rich soil is good to use to prep your garden bed. You can compost fruit and vegetable peels and cores along with eggshells and coffee grinds. Composting is such a great opportunity to help the environment.

Earth Week!

The Green Team did a great job planning Earth Week for PCCS! Earth Week is coming up and you/your child will be coming home excited to help the earth. Here are some **Earth Week Activities** (in and out of the school community)

- One great way to get ready for Earth Week is to prep your garden beds. Above are some fabulous tips to prep.
- Earth Day Volunteer Clean Up at Central Park in Grayslake from 11-2pm, 4/22.
- Ask your teachers if you can volunteer to help with classroom Earth Week activities.
- Take a refreshing and calming walk, in one of the many nature preserves around you.
- Do some spring cleaning! Donate your old electronics to the Green Team (see below) and donate clothing and small household items to the Venture Crew 185 donation event, April 29, 10am-1pm, 37850 Rt. 59, Lake Villa. (janderson@pccharterschool.org for more info)
- And of course, **don't forget to keep it green!**

Upcoming Programs:

We hope to see you at a future Green Team program! Here's what you can look forward to:

- **Family Campfire Program** on May 12! Registration required. Flyer (with registration information) coming soon!
- **Adopt-a-Highway Volunteer Clean-Up!** Date and participation information coming soon!
- And don't forget...

Bring your old outdated electronics to school for recycling!
Green Team Electronics Drive, April 10-21!