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Update!

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Our Raptor Roots Garden at Rose Park Elementary is flourishing! Eight teachers, one parent, two administrators and over one hundred fifty students have helped in the garden, tasted produce and learned more about their food. One class of 4th graders harvested a grocery bag full of last year's Rainbow Chard and planted a crop for this year. The next day we cooked it into a chard and feta fritata using 2 dozen eggs grown in our neighborhood. No one could pass up the delicious aroma wafting from the Staff Room! Now we've let last year's chard go to seed, so that students can observe the life cycle and sustainability of gardens. Who says kids hate spinach? We watched a class of kindergarteners devouring spinach and asking for more. After thinning out 30 radishes for tastes, 70 big, red radishes fed kindergarteners and third graders. Second graders enjoyed garden salad with their pizza party and a few strawberries too. We are growing pea plants 4 feet tall up bamboo from a neighbor's yard, and our pole beans will climb a "tepee." The day that a a class of 5th graders planted their tomato and pepper seedlings, after 8 weeks of anticipation, you'd think that Christmas had arrived in May! Overall, we have harvested 4 pounds of spinach, 2 pounds of chard, 5 pounds of radishes and have only begun. Still growing are bush beans, pole beans, potatoes, cabbage, beets, peas, tomatoes, peppers, herbs, chard, nasturtiums, lettuce, kale, cantaloupe, watermelon, cucumbers, pumpkins, zucchini, and winter squash. All in just 180 square feet. The food bursting from this garden represents the enthusiasm and collaboration of our students, staff and community in general. Thank you for helping us get the supplies and momentum we needed!

Image (optional):

[illegible] children