

# Semester 1 Kitchen Garden Report



## OUR VISION

To have every student engaged and achieving educational and life outcomes through a timetabled/curriculum embedded 'Kitchen Gardens' program that is valued by the school and its wider community.

Every child should have the opportunity to engage in 'real world' authentic learning experiences that develop educational and life skills.

Every student should have a connection to their food and an understanding of where it comes from and why it's important.

## WHAT HAS BEEN ACHIEVED SO FAR

Regentville Public School engaged specialist Kitchen Garden Teacher, Stefan Diakanastasis from Penrith Lakes Environmental Education Centre (PLEEC) for the duration of 2020. The aim of the project is to develop and design a comprehensive Kitchen Garden Program for the school. Throughout the project the lead teacher Rose Everingham is trained and supported to develop skills to be able to deliver the program independently beyond 2020. The program is run on a Thursday with 4 classes participating in the program.

Term 1, the students were introduced to the program. Over a series of 10 weeks the students participated in practical lessons that developed the students' knowledge of how to grow food. The student's learning was supported with knowledge building in the classroom through a series of lessons that developed the student's living world knowledge of how to grow vegetables. Student engagement was of a high level and the learning needs of students were differentiated to meet their individual level of understanding.

This second part of the semester proved challenging with COVID-19, however online learning was provided in the first five weeks to the students which included easy to understand lesson outlines, video updates of the school garden and a gardening work booklet. Feedback indicated that many students and parents enjoyed the garden updates and engaged in discussion with Rose via Class Dojo. Students engaged with the work booklet and some communicated what they had learnt once returning to school.



## PROJECT CHALLENGES

COVID-19 proved a challenge across all areas of education however the program highlighted the importance of a Kitchen Garden Program within Primary Schools. The program supported students throughout the changes due to COVID-19 with well-being being the key focus on the lesson content. The lessons were aligned to reduce the workload on parents and provide student directed learning. Students were able to apply knowledge from the lessons each week into their home environment. This further allowed a healthy relationship with food, the garden and their family.



As a result of the majority of students schooling from home, the time was utilised at school to upkeep the existing gardens and continue the progress that was made by students. This enabled the students to return to an inviting garden space.

## HIGHLIGHTS

- Revamp of existing garden beds, and seeding of all beds.
- Acquire new garden beds and fill with soil, compost and mulch
- Parents and student donations of egg cartons, strawberry punnets and tin cans to plant seedlings into
- Comprehensive lessons delivered to build students beginning Kitchen Garden knowledge.
- Online content provided to support at home learning.
- Harvest of Autumn/Winter crops that were planted by students and grown from seed
- Acquisition of \$100 gift voucher from Bunnings Warehouse, and plans put in place to collaborate in future
- Small compost bin has been started with plans to upscale in future
- Pavers painted and placed to separate classes garden space





## STUDENT WORK SAMPLES

