



SCHOOLYARD ROOTS

Growing gardens. Growing minds.

annual
report

— 2018 —

I
am
thankful for
My
garden Heroes



letter from a supporter

It has been wonderful to see Schoolyard Roots bring the wonder of learning in outdoor classrooms to Tuscaloosa City and County Schools. Each lesson encourages student interaction and engages students in core classroom curriculum with math and science lessons and hands-on experience with plants, worms, and bugs. I have witnessed the joy and excitement of kids planting seeds, watching them grow to maturity, and harvesting them with great anticipation of eating the food they have grown. It is very rewarding to see students follow recipes as a team and then enthusiastically bite into their garden-grown kale salad. Schoolyard Roots runs deep in Tuscaloosa. They thrive because they involve the whole community through the students they teach, and their work impacts local leaders, K–5 schools, higher education, businesses, and families. The positive impact of Schoolyard Roots on our kids is significant.



- Don Wambles,
Alabama Department of Agriculture & Industries
State Coordinator, Farm to School

what we do

Schoolyard Roots partners with Tuscaloosa-area elementary schools to bring learning to life through teaching gardens. By increasing access to locally-grown produce, we empower our community to make healthy and sustainable food choices.





we updated our program model!

Our partner educators provided us with feedback to help us better serve their students, and we listened. With their help, and the support of nationally-recognized school garden program research, we are proud to say that we have restructured our programming to improve our students' garden experience. As of fall 2018, we have a permanent presence in each of our partner schools. For each year of partnership, every partner school will benefit from the presence and expertise of their own SYR Education Coordinator, who will lead garden lessons and maintain the beds full-time. Our new Sustainable Support Program Model allows us to ensure that all of our students continue to benefit from our gardens year after year.

our program



93%

of teachers said that the amount of support they received with our Sustainable Support Program Model is necessary to continue to sustain the garden program at their school year after year

**findings from Midyear Review Survey

our team

In 2018, we welcomed Stephanie Reinhart, our new Executive Director; Nicole Gelb-Dugat, our new Program Director; and two new Education Coordinators, Natalie Wulf and Tom Rathe.



Stephanie received her bachelor's degree in Outdoor Education from Ohio University and her master's in Health Promotion from The University of Alabama. Prior to joining Schoolyard Roots, she designed and managed a variety of recreation programs at the collegiate and community non-profit levels.



Nicole holds a degree in Experiential Education, and comes to Schoolyard Roots with over a decade of experience working in Food Education across the U.S. She has taught at non-profit and permaculture farms, and most recently at a world-class school garden program in New Orleans.



Natalie graduated from the University of Alabama with a degree in Civil Engineering, where she took the DCGP Organic Farming courses. She is passionate about community development, holistic sustainable practices, and experiential learning.



Tom has a bachelor's degree in Environmental Studies and has an extensive background in horticultural work. In his free time, he writes songs and makes the rounds in the Tuscaloosa music circuit. He loves sharing his enthusiasm for garden-learning experiences!

we moved!

We are so grateful for our time at the office park location, but we've been on the lookout for a space that better fits our needs and suits our mission. We're excited to say that we found all that and more in our new location in the non-profit district of Tuscaloosa. Our new space allows us to work on small builds in the backyard, grow veggies in our new raised beds, and form closer partnerships with our non-profit neighbors!

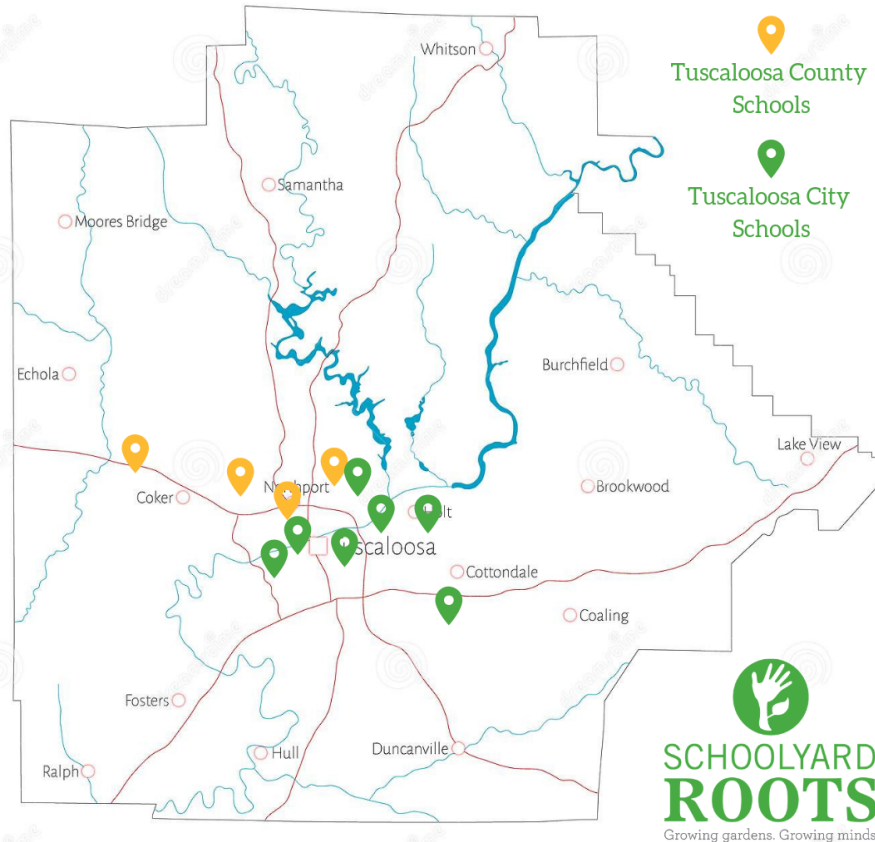


we built new gardens and re-entered schools!

With our new program model, we re-entered Flatwoods, Faucett-Vestavia, Oakdale, and Woodland Forrest in the spring semester, and Central and Magnet in the fall. We built new structures at Central and Oakdale, and Magnet got new garden beds. We could not be happier to be back in the garden with these partner schools.

organization updates

our schools



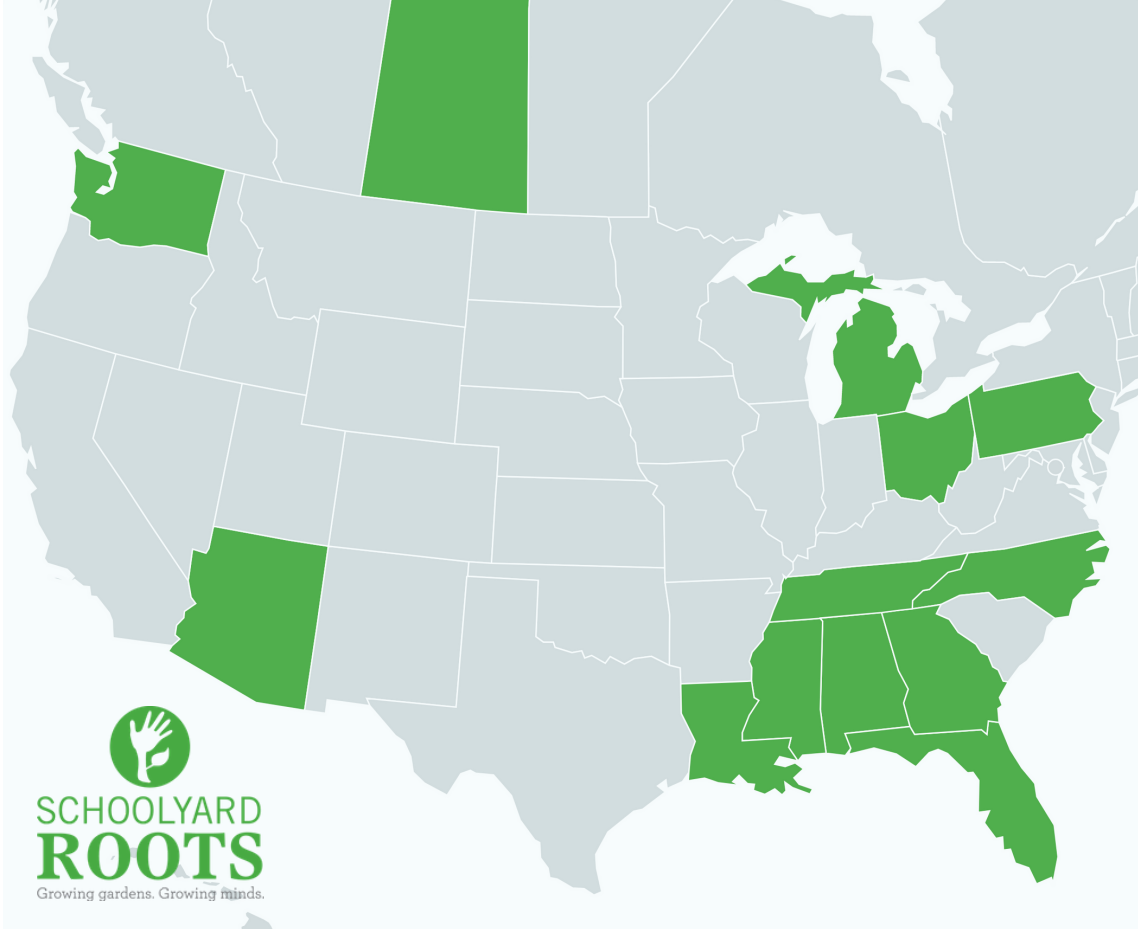
We currently partner with 11
Tuscaloosa-area schools in both
City and County school districts:

- Central Elementary
- Oakdale Elementary
- Tuscaloosa Magnet Schools-Elementary
- Woodland Forrest Elementary
- University Place Elementary
- The Alberta School of Performing Arts
- Verner Elementary

- Buhl Elementary
- Crestmont Elementary
- Flatwoods Elementary
- Faucett-Vestavia Elementary

Our standards-based,
K—5 curriculum has
been purchased by
over 35 programs in 12
states & 1 Canadian
province!

This includes
school districts,
non-profit organizations,
gardening programs,
local ecologists,
home-schooled families,
and University Extension
programs.



**SCHOOLYARD
ROOTS**
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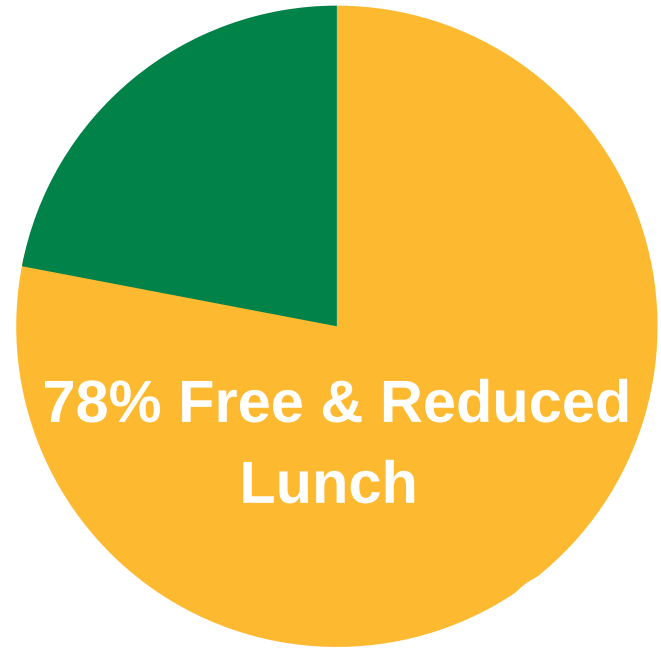
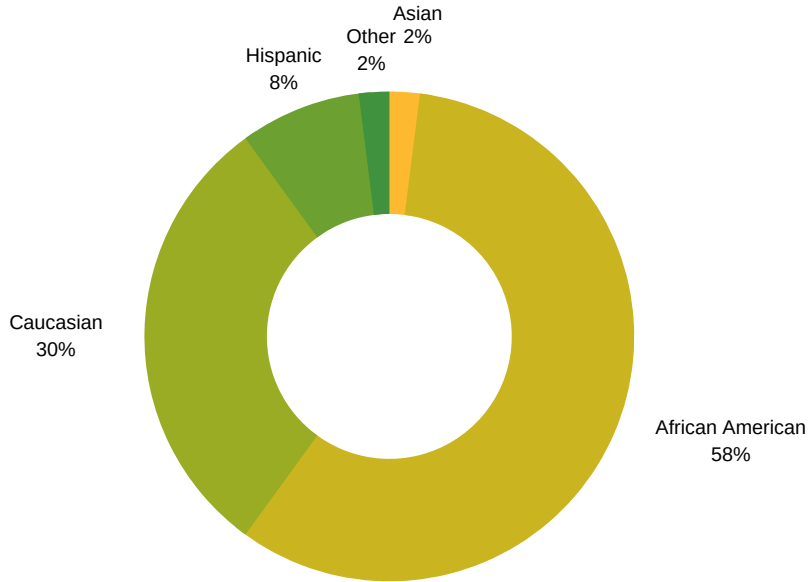
our curriculum



"There is much more enthusiasm in regards to anything garden. When topics come up in class related to things we've learned in garden activities, they are sure to make a big deal about it and remember it better." -3rd Grade teacher at Flatwoods

Total students:

4,442



budding entrepreneurs



Students in this program attend a weekly after-school club where they learn skills like basic business operations and marketing. The club is led by students in UA's Honors College class, "Let's Grow."

At the end of the semester, children use these skills to run their very own farm stand featuring fresh produce grown and harvested at their school!

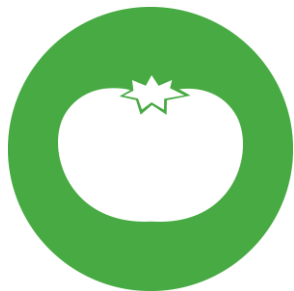




This year, we harvested

683

pounds of produce!



Our kids raised

\$400

The money raised goes
directly back to schools!



93%

of classroom teachers in our newly-added schools reported that they noticed positive changes among their students in terms of academic performance, attitude towards school, or behavior in general that they attribute to the garden program.

** findings from Midyear Review Survey

"My students love gardening and I can use it as a motivator to keep them on task and engaged. I can also use the content to offer research opportunities." -3rd Grade Teacher at TASPA





"The students really take pride in the garden and are really excited when they get to go to garden class. They take a lot of ownership in the garden. It's all about exposure—the garden exposes the students to something they might not be otherwise exposed to. That's what school is all about."

Dr. Prince, Crestmont
Elementary Principal

our volunteers

this year we had

284
volunteers

which translates to over

2,105
hours



University of Alabama partners

We are grateful that the University of Alabama (UA) is dedicated to investing in our community. Among our many campus partners, these departments deserve special recognition for going above and beyond this year in supporting the children and families we serve at Schoolyard Roots:

The Honors College

The University of Alabama College of Engineers

University of Alabama Environmental Council

New College

Circle K International

The Department of Art and Art History

Student Financial Aid - Work Study Program

Capstone Agency - Creative Campus

The College of Community Health Sciences

Department of Student Involvement





Nappa Cabbage + Carrot Stir Fry

for the stir fry:

- 1 tbsp canola oil
- 2 garlic cloves, minced
- 1 tbsp ginger, peeled + minced
- or - 1/2 tsp ginger powder
- 2 cups shredded carrots
- 1 medium nappa cabbage, thinly sliced
- cilantro for topping

for the sauce:

- 1 tsp sesame oil
- 2 tbsp soy sauce
- 1 tsp rice vinegar
- 1 tsp honey

"I don't like it,
I LOVE it!"



1. Prepare the sauce by mixing ingredients in a bowl. Set aside for later.
2. Heat a skillet or wok over medium-high heat.
3. Add oil, garlic, and ginger. Stir for about 30 seconds. Take care not to let the garlic brown!
4. Add carrots and stir for approximately 3 minutes.
5. Add cabbage and stir until tender, about 3 more minutes. Turn off heat.
6. Add the sauce mixture and toss to coat the vegetables. Serve topped with cilantro.



Income

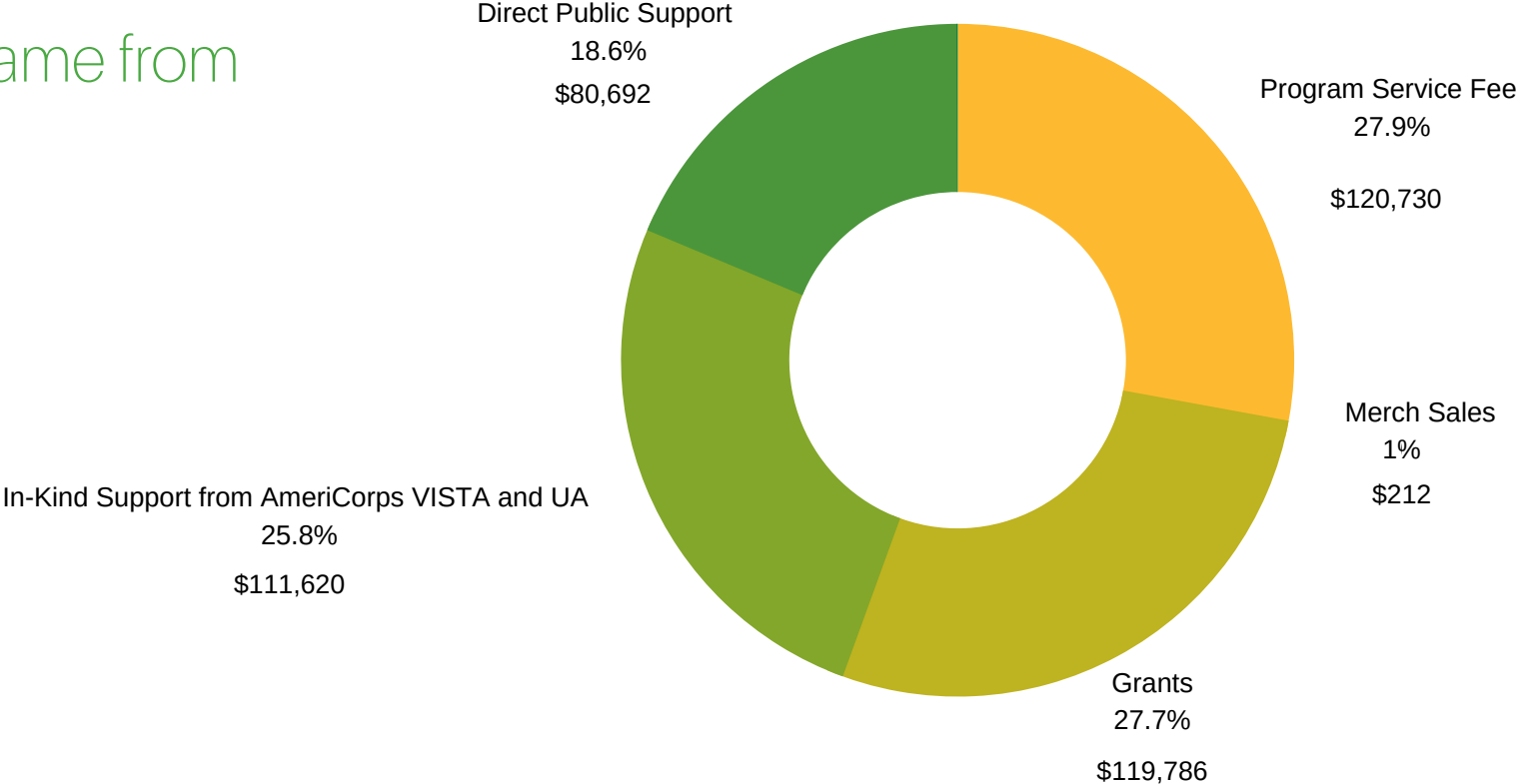
\$321,420

Expenses

\$296,458

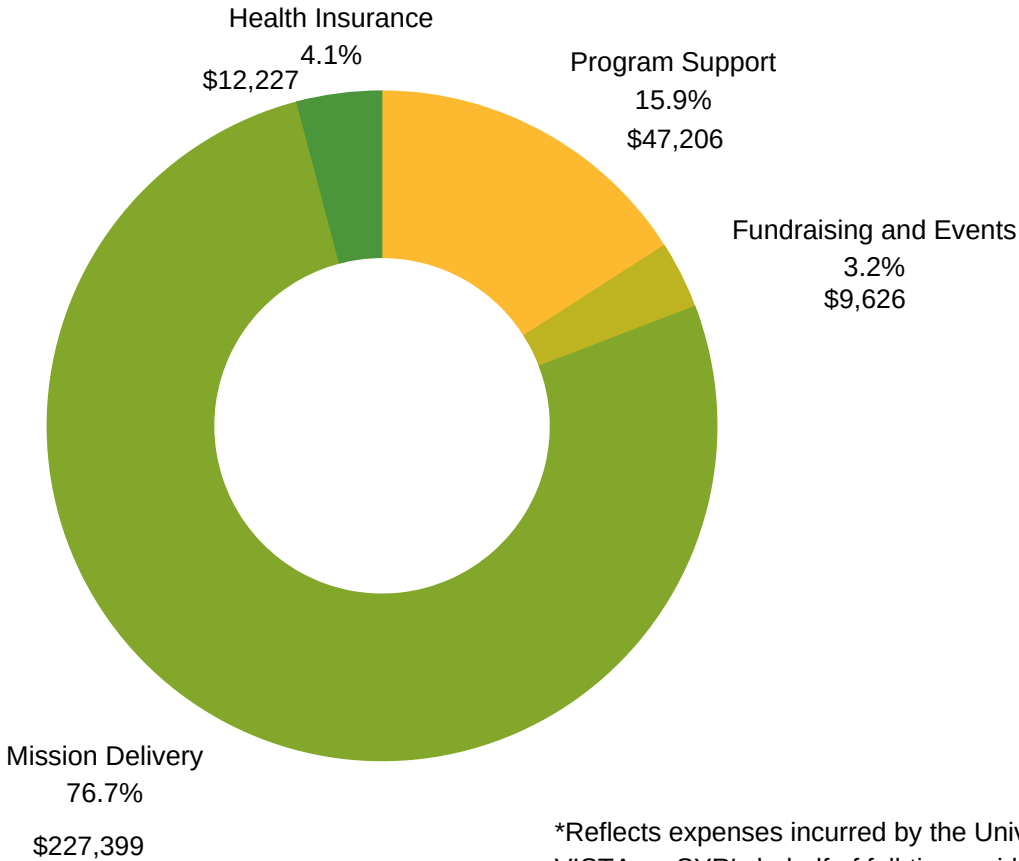
our financials

where our funds came from



*The University of Alabama and AmeriCorps VISTA provide in-kind support of full-time paid fellowship positions, part-time Work Study students, and compensation for SYR instructors teaching courses in UA departments

how we spent our funds



*Reflects expenses incurred by the University of Alabama and AmeriCorps VISTA on SYR's behalf of full-time paid Fellowship positions, part-time Work Study students, and compensation for SYR instructors teaching courses in UA departments

garden party

restaurants
breweries
bakeries

27

13

local farmers

local artists +
businesses

100

\$50,000

raised to help support our teaching gardens and programming in the coming year. We are so grateful to everyone who helped make this event a success—we're proud to serve such a strong, supportive community!



We could not have grown in 2018 without these amazing sponsors:

Progressive Properties
Randall-Reilly
Smark Bank
Townsend Automotive
United Way of West Alabama
Alabama Public Radio
Dr. April & Ralph Lane
Karen Burgess
Fitts Agency
JamisonMoneyFarmer PC
Pritchett Moore, Inc.
Erin Hisey
Pat & William Patton
Craig Wedderspoon
Claire Friday
Erik & Brooke Peterson

McAbee Construction Inc.
Spire Inc.
University Medical Center
Nucor
Jack Johnson &
The Johnson Ohana Foundation
The Nicholas Wilson Memorial
Foundation
Kathryn Bettis
Alabama One Credit Union
Bryant Bank
H.A. Edwards Inc. Real Estate
Jack & Emily Leigh
MedCenter Urgent Care
Raymond James
Regions Bank

The Pearson Law Firm, LLC
Amason & Associates
State Representative Bill Poole
Crimson 2 Go
Delview Properties
Echols, Taylor, & Associates, PC
Ellis Architects
Financial Economics
First National Bank of Central AL
Hotel Indigo
Innisfree Irish Pub
Manna Grocery
Morgan Stanley
Michael & Babs Anderson
Toulmin Cabinetry & Design

our sponsors

We have big plans for 2019!
Follow us on social media and
watch how we grow!



@schoolyardroots



follow us



Dear Schoolyard Roots,

I want to thank you for teaching me. When I think of gardens, I think of you teaching me. Some things I enjoyed are when we cook and then eat what we made, that is yummy. Another thing is when you taught us how to plant and take care of the plants. That was fun. Last but not least is when you pointed out good bugs and bad bugs. Thank you for helping me understand a garden but most of all thank you for being here!!!!!!

Sincerely,

Sophie



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