



Programming Update

*By Laura Genello,
Farm to School Specialist*

week. This year, we'll have more support than ever with three new team members joining us at Great Kids Farm.

Baltimore City Public Schools has partnered with FoodCorps, a national service organization, to place three service members at the farm for an 11-month position. FoodCorps service members will help lead our educational programs, including field trips and farm to classroom experiences, and hopefully enable us to reach more students. We're thrilled to welcome Ray, Veronica, and Jasmin to the team! See below for a little bit about them.

Veronica (she/her)

Most Recently Moved From: Alabama/ Georgia

Looking forward to: Learning more about gardening & the best times of year to plant.

A cool skill you bring with you: Security & Mindfulness

Favorite fruit or veggie: Mango & Sweet Potatoes

Fun fact: I am working on my Doctorate Degree & love to travel

Ray (they/them)

Most Recently Moved From: Albuquerque, NM

Looking forward to: Getting to facilitate fun and hands-on outdoor learning!

A cool skill you bring with you: I can do the splits!

Favorite fruit or veggie: Concord grapes (specifically the ones from the farm!)

Fun fact: I have an orange cat named Clementine!

Jasmin (she/they)

Most Recently Moved From: Pasadena to Baltimore!

Looking forward to: Enjoying nature with kiddos, learning about Baltimore's school food programs, and introducing new foods to students.

A cool skill you bring with you: I cook with my nose, and it usually leads me to good flavor combinations!

Favorite fruit or veggie: My favorites change all the time, but lately I've been loving peaches.

Fun fact: I lived in an urban ecovillage in Portland, OR for 3 years. It was as cool as it sounds -- I got to learn so much about food forests and permaculture while cooking and gardening with my neighbors.

Flavors of Fall is
Saturday, September 23
from 4:30 - 6:30pm

Our biggest fundraiser of the year is next Saturday, September 23! Get your tickets now and invite a friend! [Click here](#) for more information and to purchase

tickets or [here](#) to bid on our auction items. All proceeds support programming at the Farm.

Friends of Great Kids Farm Presents

Flavors of Fall

Happy Hour Fundraiser
Saturday, September 23rd 4:30-6:30



Join us for a casual happy hour to support the programs at Great Kids Farm

Featuring small plates highlighting produce from the farm, signature cocktails and mocktails, a silent auction, and more!



Scan this QR Code to purchase tickets or visit friendsgkf.org

Scan this QR Code to check out our online silent auction

Visit us online!

Donate

PayPal



Farmer's Notes

*By James Koval,
Farm Manager*

This summer has without question been our most productive growing season yet at Great Kids Farm. We have had great success with all the electric fencing upgrades. We had no issues with any groundhogs eating our plants and produce. It is so nice to see the end of that frustration!

The tomatoes have been some of the most

prolific plants this summer. We have two 100' rows of mixed tomatoes ranging from large red slicing tomatoes to cherry-sized tomatoes with stripes of yellow, purple, and pink. They are delicious. We can't wait for the students to begin field trips so they can taste them! Also, the pumpkin patch in the lower field is doing great. There are hundreds of flowers and they are covered in bees and other pollinators. The small pumpkins and gourds are forming and should be timed nicely for a late September/early October harvest.

The high school interns are now back at school but they had a great summer using their new battery-powered tools. Their continued maintenance of the farm definitely allowed for such a bountiful harvest as well. We also had some fun food projects where we made French fries from the potatoes they planted in March! Looking forward to a great fall season as well!





Update: Jill Wrigley Outdoor Classroom

We're making progress on the Jill Wrigley Memorial Outdoor Classroom project at Great Kids Farm! Our building permit for the pavilion was issued in late August and the roof is currently being manufactured. We expect delivery of the materials in mid to late October, at which time we will meet with our contractor and schedule a date for installation. Slowly but surely, we're moving forward and are hopeful we'll have this wonderful new space for outdoor learning for City Schools' students at the Farm in the very near future!





GREAT KIDS FARM  **BALTIMORE CITY PUBLIC SCHOOLS**
presents

FREE Farm Family Hours

Fri, August 18, 2023 - 2:30-5:30pm Fri, April 5, 2024 - 11:30am-5:30pm
Sat, October 7, 2023 - 10am-2pm Sat, April 27, 2024 - 10am-2pm
Fri, November 3, 2023 - 11:30am-5:30pm Mon, June 10, 2024 - 11:30am-5:30pm



FREE & OPEN TO ALL FAMILIES OF CITY SCHOOLS STUDENTS & STAFF

**MEET OUR ANIMALS! SEE WHAT'S GROWING!
EXPLORE OUR WOODS AND STREAM!**

Baltimore City Public Schools does not discriminate based on race, ethnicity, color, ancestry, national origin, religion, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression, marital status, pregnancy/parenting status, disability, veteran status, genetic information, age, or other legally or constitutionally protected attributes or affiliations, as outlined in Board Policies JBA, JBB, JICK, ACA, ACB, and ACD.
Full nondiscrimination notice: www.baltimorecityschools.org/notice-nondiscrimination

OPTIONAL REGISTRATION
@ <https://bit.ly/GKFFamilies>



Great Kids Farm featured in *Education Week*

Great Kids Farm was recently featured in a video produced by *Education Week*. You can check it out [here](#).



The Great Kids Farm Beet

Back to School Updates

Save the Dates:

- **FREE Farm Family Hours:** GKF welcomes families of all district staff and students for these free events – and we hope you'll promote within your schools and networks! Next event is **Saturday, 10/7/23, 10am-2pm**, but details and optional registration form are [here](#).
- **Systemic Professional Development:** (All listed [here](#)) Will include sessions on greening, gardening, and more! Led by Farm to School and Sustainability teams; check for our listings in the catalogues when they are published.

In-Person Programs Fall/Winter:

- **Field trips to Great Kids Farm:** Sign up ASAP! Free (including buses) curriculum-aligned, hands-on learning with plants, animals, and land at the farm (K-5) - 1 per school per year
- **Farm to Classroom Experience:** Staff bring the farm to your school (classroom or club) to lead lessons on animals, planting, food waste, and/or farm-fresh cooking (pre-K-12)
- **Student Summits:** Full-day events featuring hands-on workshops bringing together students from many schools. Applications will open 1-2 months before each summit, but our [Summit Interest Form](#) is always live for teachers interested in updates for future summits. Save the dates:
 - **Good Food Fall Summit:** [APPLICATION](#) LIVE NOW (due 9/25), (gr 5-8) - 10/18/23
 - **NEW! Food & Climate Summit:** (title and details TBD) (gr 6-8) - 12/8/23
 - **African American Foodways Summit** (gr 9-12) - 2/23/24
 - **Spring Garden Club Summit** (gr 3-5) - 4/24/24
- **High school internship program & service-learning opportunities**, including Thursday 4:30-6pm Garden Crew Volunteer Hours (beginning mid-Sept) @ GKF: [email us](#).

Virtual & Materials-Based Programs

- **Ag-tivity Kits:** Materials and teacher resource pack to link classroom learning with hands-on experiences, including Aquaponics Kit, Microgreens Kit, Mushroom Kit, Indoor Herb Garden Kit, Worms Are Wonderful Compost Kit (Pre-K-12)
- **Facetime the Farmer:** Live (virtual) visit to GKF tailored by age group and focus area (Pre-K-12)
- **Video Resources:** [Science-curriculum-aligned videos](#) and [introductory farm clips](#)
- **Virtual Field Trip:** Students explore GKF at their own pace with this digital experience designed for the virtual classroom (audience: K-5)

School Garden Support

- Questions about planting at your school? Request support through our [School Garden Support Request Form](#).
- Check out our [School Garden Toolkit](#) for resources and tips.
- [Seeds and Seedlings:](#) Stay tuned for announcements about seeds and seedlings giveaways in the Spring. Limited seeds and seedlings may also be available in the Fall.

For guidance on outdoor learning and food education, review the below and email us with additional questions.

- [Outdoor Learning Toolkit](#)
- [Classroom Cooking Toolkit](#)

Involved in cooking or food education at your school? [Email Anne](#) to connect with the City Schools Food Ed Network, which meets quarterly.

For more information about educational resources, please reach out to our farm to school specialists at farms@bcps.k12.md.us for the most up-to-date information. And be sure to follow us on social media!

Facebook [@friendsgkf](#) **Instagram** [@friendsgkf](#) **Twitter** [@friendsGKF](#)

