



## Programming Update

*By Laura Genello,  
Farm to School Specialist*

With Thanksgiving just around the corner, there's only a handful of field trips left in the season before we shift our focus to classroom programs in the winter months. It's been a beautiful fall, full of sunny warm days of students enjoying the farm.

From picking pumpkins and gourds, planting garlic, or harvesting kale for students to make a salad, we've been taking advantage of the abundance of fall and incorporating

everything the farm has to offer into our programming.

So far this fall, we've hosted 21 field trips that have brought over a thousand students to the farm. With the help of three FoodCorps service members, we've also been able to bring our programs into more schools than ever this fall. We've run 37 classroom programs this year, reaching over 1,700 students. We have also been able to offer schools more in-depth school garden support this year. The FoodCorps team, Ray, Jasmin, and Veronica, have each partnered with a school to help co-facilitate and assist their garden clubs.

This winter we're planning to keep the momentum going with a robust schedule of farm to classroom programs, and two winter summits addressing the intersection of climate and food and African American foodways.



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## ***Flavors of Fall Flash Auction***

Some of our items didn't come in on time for Flavors of Fall so we're hosting a flash auction starting **Thursday November 23 through Sunday, November 26th**. We have just a few items (see below), but they are holiday-giving worthy! [Check out the auction here](#) as you recover from the holiday weekend and have fun bidding!

***Sun Nurseries \$50 Gift Certificate***

***Overnight stay at Four Seasons  
(expires in February so must be used soon)***

***Animal Lovers Gift Basket***

***Passes for four to KID Museum in Bethesda***



## **Farmer's Notes**

***By James Koval,  
Farm Manager***

This year, we are fortunate to host a high school intern for the entire school year. Justin, a junior at City Neighbors, is at the farm for a full day every Wednesday. This is a part of City Neighbors' program for all juniors to be placed at worksites one day a week. Justin has been at the farm for a month now. He has been an amazing addition to the team. We have been able to tackle so many projects. He is so skilled using all the equipment and is doing great work in the field, barn, and on the property.

Fall is the time for some bulb planting. Every year in late October/early November, we plant garlic. These start as individual cloves, briefly sprout before winter, go dormant, and take off again in the spring. We won't be

harvesting this garlic until next summer. But the wait is worth it! In addition to garlic, we also are planting some cool tulip and daffodil varieties. These flowers will bloom early in the spring. Nothing better than some spring tulips!

Everything else around the farm is slowly getting cleaned, harvested, and prepped for winter. Fields have been seeded with winter rye and crimson clover. The outdoor potted plants are moved back into the greenhouses. The goats are a few weeks away from transitioning back to their winter diet of hay. This has been the most productive and bountiful year at the farm, but it is nice to slow down and ease into the winter break. We are excited to take what we learned and plan for an even better next year!







November 28, 2023

**Make a  
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GREAT KIDS FARM

**GIVINGTUESDAY**

In this season of giving, we are especially thankful for the wonderful donors that fund our mission to bring farm-to-school programming to Baltimore City Public School students. The great thing about donating to Friends of Great Kids Farm is that a small donation can make a huge impact - \$1 buys a goldfish for a class aquaponics kit! Visit our website to learn more about how we put each donation to good use: [friendsgkf.org/support-us](https://friendsgkf.org/support-us).

On **November 28** (Giving Tuesday), please donate to Friends and help us continue to support great farm-to-school programming. Invite your family and friends to a friendly challenge and ask them to match or beat your #GivingTuesday donation.

Make a difference with your donation by supporting our effort to grow a healthier and happier Baltimore. Want to keep the spirit of giving all year long? Sign up for a recurring donation. Donations

can be made [online here](#). *Friends is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization, and your donation may qualify as a tax deductible donation.*

# *The Great Kids Farm Beet*

## Farm to School Updates

### In-Person Programs Fall/Winter:

- **Farm to Classroom Experiences:** 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)
- **Field trips to Great Kids Farm:** [All slots are currently full for SY23-24, but more may be added, so please complete request form if you are interested, and you'll be added to the wait list!] Free (including buses) curriculum-aligned, hands-on learning with plants, animals, and land at the farm (K-5) - 1 per school per year
- **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:
  - African American Foodways Summit (gr 9-12) - 2/23/24
  - Spring Garden Club Summit (gr 3-5) - 4/24/24
- **Thursday Garden Crew Volunteer Hours @ GKF** (thru Dec)- 4:30-6pm: [email L Menyuk](#)
- **High school internship program & service-learning opportunities:** [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](#)

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

All Farm to School offerings are listed at [www.baltimorecityschools.org/farm-school](http://www.baltimorecityschools.org/farm-school). General Farm to School email is [farms@bcps.k12.md.us](mailto:farms@bcps.k12.md.us)

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