



Programming Update

*By Laura Genello,
Farm to School Specialist*

Visit Great Kids Farm this month and you're likely to find upper elementary school students catching fish in the stream, turning over logs to study slugs, harvesting tomatoes, making salsa, or expressing their creativity at the camp talent show. You'll also find our high school student camp counselors busy leading camp clubs or craft activities, while our high school farm interns care for the fields and animals.

This is our second summer offering Great Kids Farm and Forest Camp. This year, we plan to host 120 summer campers divided among four one-week camp sessions. Summer camp gives us the opportunity to get to know

students over the week, while allowing them to explore the forest, farm, and stream in ways that a group just visiting for a field trip cannot. It's fun to watch the campers make natural discoveries (ground beetles! Slugs! Crayfish!), while watching the camp counselors bond with the younger students and practice their leadership skills.



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Farmer's Notes

*By James Koval,
Farm Manager*

The high school interns are back at the farm! This summer, we have a crew of seven high school interns. We have a mix of upcoming freshmen, juniors, seniors, and a June grad. A lot of them are returning for their second or third summer but we also have some new faces. Check out the past Friends' Instagram posts for an intro on each of them.

We have been so busy this summer getting seeds and plants in the ground. As of mid-July, we have planted pumpkins, watermelons, cucumbers, cantaloupe, okra, and an assortment of flowers. The plan is to have all of these items ready for our early fall field trips and the Friends' Flavors of Fall event. This year, we have been setting up electric fencing around our planting rows to prevent rabbits and groundhogs from

nibbling on the young seedlings. It seems to be working so far!

Aside from all the planting, the team has been taking care of all the animals and the property. Nothing better than cleaning chicken coops on a hot summer day! It has been such a great start to the summer and I'm excited for all the upcoming projects and harvests as the season goes on.



**Join us for *Flavors of Fall*,
our biggest fundraiser of the year**



Flavors of Fall is back on! This year's fundraiser event will provide a journey from seed to plate, directly resulting from the Farm's programming. Our guests will enjoy hors d'oeuvres and cocktails made from the bounties of this year's harvest while learning more about the experience the Farm provides for Baltimore City Public School students. A silent auction provided by generous donors will also be featured at this year's event. Tickets sales will benefit the mission of Friends. To purchase tickets or sponsor this year's event, visit the [event site here](#).

Friends' Board Updates



We would like to thank **Mandy Knab** for her service over the past 3 years as board president of Friends. Mandy's strong leadership, her flexibility and commitment, as well as her ability to keep us focused on the important work of Friends supporting the programming staff at City Schools' Great Kids Farm have been invaluable over the past three years. We're grateful not only for her service as board president, but also for her commitment to continuing on the board!

We welcome our new board president, **Mary Jane Namian**, as of July 1st. Mary Jane has served on the board since 2017, been a committed and engaged board member and spent two years as the board's treasurer. We look forward to working with Mary Jane as Friends continues to support the work of funding great programming for City Schools' students!



Grab a pizza and a pint for Friends of Great Kids Farm on August 10th at Well Crafted Kitchen!

Come out for a pizza and a pint at **Well Crafted Kitchen & Union Craft Brewing** on **Wednesday, August 10th**. All day, for each pizza pie and/or Union Craft pint sold, \$1 will be donated to Friends of Great Kids Farm to help us continue to support the amazing programming here at Great Kids Farm.

You'll find us at 1700 West 41st Street in Baltimore! Join us!



Ways to Support the Farm

Looking for a quick and easy way to support City Schools' kids and farm-to-school programming? Here are three simple ways to support the farm-to-

school programming for Baltimore City Public School students:

Become a recurring donor – Just \$30 a month will bring a bus full of students to the Farm for a day of experiential education at Great Kids Farm. Without transportation, much of the Farm's amazing programming is inaccessible to City Schools' students.

Donate a grocery store gift card – Each in-school cooking program costs about \$45. Your \$10, \$20 or \$50 gift card donation will help support this amazing programming for elementary and middle-school students. We love *Aldi*, *Giant* and *Weis Market* for their proximity!

And while you're shopping online, please consider using **Smile.Amazon.com** and choosing Friends of Great Kids Farm as your charitable partner!

Thank you for your continued support.

Resource Corner for Parents & Teachers

- **SUMMER RESOURCES:**
- **Great Kids Farm and Forest Camp - Summer 2022:** All slots are full, but families may join the waitlist via this [form](#). GKFFC offers BCPSS students the

opportunity to engage with nature and their food system in ways that reinforce scientific concepts from the school year, spark connections with the environment, and promote social and emotional well-being. Four FREE Mon-Thurs sessions offered, including optional bus transportation from city hub.

- **Summer school garden support:** Need help maintaining your school garden over the summer? [Email us](#) for help planning.
- **If your site/organization is hosting a summer program for City Schools students, consider the ways we could support your program & participants:**
 - **[Summer Field Trips to GKF](#):** Organizations that serve Baltimore City Public School students can apply for free trips to GKF in August 2022.
 - **[Ag-tivity Kits](#):** Materials that reinforce classroom learning with hands-on experiences, including Aquaponics Kit, Microgreens Kit, Mushroom Kit, Indoor Herb Garden Kit, Worms Are Wonderful Compost Kit...
 - **[Facetime the Farmer](#):** Schedule a live 30-min virtual visit for your summer campers!
 - **[Virtual Field Trip](#):** Youth can explore GKF at their own pace with this digital experience (initially designed for the early elementary virtual classroom).
 - **[Classroom Cooking Toolkit](#), [Outdoor Learning Toolkit](#), and [School Garden Toolkit and video tour](#)**
 - **Consulting & Professional Development:** [email us](#) if you'd like support with planting, outdoor learning, food education, and/or connections to local farms, gardens, and food- or nutrition-related organizations

FALL 2022 PROGRAMS AND RESOURCES: In addition to the offerings listed above, the Farm to School team will return to the below programs in the next school year. Sign up with the links below to be the first to know when registration opens!

- **[K-5 Great Kids Farm Field Trips](#):** FREE curriculum-aligned, hands-on learning with plants, animals, and land at the farm. Limit 1 trip per school per school year.
- **[Farm to Classroom Experiences](#):** F2S staff bring the farm to classroom or club at your school to lead lessons (any grade) on animals, planting, and/or farm-fresh cooking. Several slots still available this spring!
- **[Facetime the Farmer](#):** Schedule a live 30-min virtual visit for your class to link their classroom learning to our animals and plants! Slots still available for this spring!

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

For more information on joining the Friends of Great Kids Farm board, please reach out to Nancy Wiley at nancy@friendsgkf.org.

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