

## FRESH from the Garden

### Making Adjustments

Teachers are accustomed to making adjustments daily, sometimes hourly, as schedules are disrupted for one reason or another. When schools in NC closed on March 16 to avert the spread of COVID-19, teachers did what they always do; they adjusted.

Most have adapted to a virtual, online, or digital delivery of content. For sure, it's not ideal, especially for teaching lessons in the garden where the tactile, applied aspect is one of the key learning features. Nonetheless, we've seen and heard from teachers pushing forward in the garden, delivering lessons to students (and parents) and truly, for fellow educators as well. Isn't learning by example the most fun?!



Janet Childress is the STEM teacher at A.T. Allen Elementary, in Concord, and she has done several Facebook Live “episodes” from the garden. Check out “Episode 1” [here](#). She has created a Facebook group called *Kiddos Garden* for sharing videos and garden encouragement. [Join the group](#) and let Janet teach and inspire you!

Amy and Doug were disappointed to have to cancel some trainings scheduled for this month, but they are busy working from home and tackling the world of virtual content delivery, just like you! One thing they are excited to try is filming several short videos that you can use with your students. Here's a list of what they plan to cover first. Be on the lookout for these and more to come.

- Flower dissection
- Seed dissection
- Pollen and Pollination
- Microgreens
- Container gardening (with square food seeds!)
- Composting
- Soil composition
- Kale harvest and bolting

If you have specific topics that you're interested in, or if you have any questions or requests that [Amy](#) and [Doug](#) can help with, please don't hesitate to reach out to them via email.



# SGSI Update



At this point, we are cautiously optimistic that we will be able to hold the School Garden Summer Institute as planned, June 24-25.

**Registration is open** and the early bird discount (\$40) will only last through April 15. Registration after April 15 will be \$50. If we have to cancel the event, we **will** refund all registration fees.

FoodCorps will be the focus of one session at SGSI. Here's an interesting article about one of the FoodCorps initiatives: **What if Children Ran the School Lunchroom? (New York Times)**

The second day will be led by Life Lab. Participants will learn to use a garden to breathe life into standards-based lessons, promote ecological literacy, encourage healthy eating, and support students' social development. Using Life Lab's Growing Classroom activity guide, participants in this hands-on workshop experience tried-and-true garden-based lessons linked to **Common Core Language Arts and Math and Next Generation Science Standards**, practice basic gardening techniques, and develop management strategies for a school garden program.



## At-home Resources



[5 Nature-based activities to do with the kids this week \(Gardener's Supply Company\)](#)

[Gardening with Children Teaching Ideas \(Soil3\)](#)

[Garden Ideas for Kids, Parents, Families \(kidsgardening.org\)](#)

[Farm to School Teaching Resources \(ASAP's Growing Minds\)](#)

[Youth and Family COVID-19 Resources \(NC State Extension\)](#)



## Funding Opportunities

Remember, you can always check out the **Grant Opportunities page** on the STEM website for other funding sources.

### **NC Soil and Water Conservation**

The NC Foundation for Soil and Water Conservation will fund up to five gardens, incorporated into an Outdoor Environmental Learning Center (OELC) on a school campus; each OELC is required to include an innovative soils education component. Please contact your **local soil and water conservation district office** to learn more about this partnership funding opportunity. The application deadline is June 5.

## Whole Kids Foundation

The **#WholeKidsBiz sweepstakes** aims to see what types of young entrepreneur programs are out there in the areas of gardening, plant-forward cooking or nutrition education to build awareness, share best practice and spark inspiration for the next generation of entrepreneurs!

Put together a video with your young entrepreneurs and **enter to win** up to \$1,000! Entries must be submitted by April 15; find more details on the **website**.

## NC Farm Bureau

North Carolina Farm Bureau is currently accepting applications from NC teachers for agricultural outreach grants (up to \$500). Going Local Grants help educators provide Pre-K through collegiate level students with valuable, real-world education and experiences directly related to the agricultural industry and the Common Core State and Essential Standards. Teachers practicing in private and public North Carolina schools, colleges, and universities are encouraged to apply **here** by April 15.

**Find more School Garden Resources on our website:**

[Lesson Plans](#)

[Professional Development](#)

[Recipes](#)

[Newsletter Archive](#)

**Questions? Contact us!**

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