CONTACT
Susan Hereth, Kingston YMCA Farm Project
845-249-8506
susan@kingstonymcafarmproject.org

Media opportunity, Thursday, October 26, 2017

Elementary students to explore gardens, storytelling, and printmaking

Hyde Park, NY – Nutrition? Botany? Insect life cycles? Farm stands? Not part of the expected curriculum for grades 1-3, right? Well, Julie Cash, a Montessori teacher at Kingston’s George Washington School has other ideas. You can see her in action Thurs., Oct.26, 9:30-11:15 am, at the Kingston YMCA Farm Project, corner of Susan and Summer Streets, City of Kingston. She’ll be joined by the Farm Project director KayCee Wimbish and educator Susan Hereth.

This summer Cash applied for an Explore Award through Teaching the Hudson Valley and received a matching grant of more than $3,000 to help cover transportation, program fees, and materials for an elaborate year-long program integrating field experiences – like the visit to the Farm Project – with science, mathematics, language activities, and visual and performing arts.

Over the course of the year, Cash’s multi-age, multi-lingual classroom will pick apples at Montgomery Place, develop communication skills with a storyteller, work with a printmaker, and visit the Kingston YMCA Farm Project multiple times. George Washington is a Title1 school -- many students come from families who struggle economically -- and Cash is intent on building up students’ strengths, while providing opportunities they might not otherwise have.

Join us on the 26th at the Kingston YMCA Farm Project and you will see a variety of hands-on activities on the farm and in the Children’s Garden. Earthworms and composting may be involved. Julie Cash will be on hand as well in case you’d like to know more about her students, her school, and her creative approach to teaching and learning.

After each farm visit, Wimbish will visit the classroom for cooking projects using fresh produce. That’s where some of the nutrition lessons Cash has planned come in. "Field trips give the children common, meaningful, and active learning experiences that are brought back to the classroom and used to provide a variety of rich teaching and learning opportunities throughout the year,” Cash says.

For details about Explore Awards and other initiatives, visit THV’s website. More on the Kingston YMCA Farm Project, including programs, events, and more is available on their website. And, George Washington School’s website includes information on its community garden, healthy eating and exercise initiatives, Montessori education practices, and more.