

Farm to School/Sustainability PDs on Nov 17 - in person at at Great Kids Farm

From Pi-Sunyer, Joanna <JPi-Sunyer@bcps.k12.md.us>

Date Thu 2023-11-09 1:57 PM

To Pi-Sunyer, Joanna <JPi-Sunyer@bcps.k12.md.us>

Cc Rosenthal, Anne C <ACRosenthal@bcps.k12.md.us>; Genello, Laura S <LSGenello@bcps.k12.md.us>; Menyuk, Laura N <LNMenyuk@bcps.k12.md.us>

 1 attachment (2 MB)

2023 Nov Farm to School PD Flyer.png;

Hello – We are leading in-person sessions at Great Kids Farm on Fri Nov 17th! We are listed in the [Teaching Profession Catalog](#), so please register! See below and attached.

- **Maryland Green Schools Program: A How-To Session.** 9:15am-11:45am. Led by Joanna Pi-Sunyer, Mary Westlund of MAEOE, and Jeff Ellis and Meg McDonald of Fallstaff EMS, who led their school's successful application last year.
Come explore the MD Green Schools Program as a way to engage colleagues and students and implement hands-on, real-world environmental learning. Meet at Great Kids Farm to learn alongside the nonprofit organization that runs the program (MAEOE), the City Schools Sustainability Manager, and Fallstaff EMS teachers who led their school in achieving Green School status. There will be work-time to get started or continue on your application.
- **Garden ABCs: Starting and Funding Your School Garden.** 12:30pm-3pm. Led by Laura Genello of Great Kids Farm, Tameshia Farley of Cross Country EMS and Kyle Gregory of Renaissance.
Gardens enrich school environments by providing a venue for nature-based learning, hands-on curricular connections, and healthy school environments. This workshop will focus on two elements of starting new school gardens (1) creating the social infrastructure to sustain a garden by building staff and student teams, and (2) budgeting and fundraising. The content of this workshop is similar to that in the Building Sustainable School Gardens Workshop offered in January 2023.

There will also be a bonus afternoon session which is not in the catalog, so register via the link below!

- **Food Safety in the School Garden. 3:15-4:15pm at Great Kids Farm – Free Materials**
School gardens offer lots of teachable moments, from environmental stewardship to agriculture, nutrition, and healthy lifestyles. Schools wanting to start a garden may have concerns about food safety. UMD Extension, UMD College Park, MD Dept of Agriculture, and MSDE have adapted food safety advice from the National Good Agricultural Practices and Good Handling Practices (GAPs/GHPs) with a focus on youth and adults involved in school gardens. You will: learn to identify potential food safety hazards and solutions to reduce risks; gain ideas training students to be safe gardeners, and learn additional food safety resources that extend beyond the classroom. This session is not in the catalog, so [register here!](#)

Thanks
Joanna

Joanna Pi-Sunyer

Manager – Sustainability

Baltimore City Public Schools

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www.baltimorecityschools.org/sustainability

[November 2023 Green Schools Updates](#)


[Book a meeting with me](#)

Reminder! Upcoming greening/enviro sustainability opportunities

From Pi-Sunyer, Joanna <JPi-Sunyer@bcps.k12.md.us>

Date Thu 2025-09-11 2:24 PM

To Pi-Sunyer, Joanna <JPi-Sunyer@bcps.k12.md.us>

 5 attachments (5 MB)

Sustainability & Greening Info Sessions SY26.pdf; Green Leader Stipend info SY26.pdf; GHSC SY26 graphic.png; Farm Family Hours - Fall 25 SPAN.jpg; Farm Family Hours - Fall 25 ENG.jpg;

Reminder of some opportunities from the [Aug-Sep Green Schools Updates!](#)

Garden Leader Learning Community – kick-off event Fri Sep 12, 4-6pm @ Medfield Heights – tomorrow (Friday) night – just show up!

We're thrilled to launch the 2025 Garden Leader Learning Community. At our kick-off event (4300 Buchanan Ave, 21211) we'll have a garden tour, fresh snacks from the farm, and a pickled pepper making activity. We'll meet 5 other times throughout the year to explore practical tips and gardening how-to, as well as dive into activities and techniques to create and sustain student garden clubs. Join one or more sessions of this informal, no-commitment-necessary network of other garden educators for peer-to-peer learning, troubleshooting, and support. [Learn more and sign-up here.](#)

FREE Farm Family Hours – Sat Sep 20, 10am-2pm

Great Kids Farm welcomes families of all district staff and students for these free events – and we hope you'll promote within your schools and networks! Sole fall event is **Saturday, 9/20/25**, 10am-2pm (with bonus activities 11am-1pm in partnership with Friends of GKF). Details and optional registration form are [here](#). (See attached graphics in English and Spanish.)

Greening & Sustainability Info Sessions – Tue Sep 16 @ 3:30 or Thu Oct 9 @ 4:30

Attend ONE of the two sessions to get all the info you need to get started integrating environmental sustainability into your school! Just scan the QR code on the attached flier, [log into Teams](#) (Meeting ID: 261 870 056 859 4. Passcode: ec6Pe2jh), or for a calendar invite, email Green@bcps.k12.md.us with your preferred session.

Green Leader Stipend – talk to your principal

Starting this year, principals have the option to pay stipends to up to three BTU-affiliated staff at their school to be Green Leaders. Learn more about the [Green Leader program](#), including required documentation and application. (See attached graphic.)

Apply for Green Healthy Smart Challenge funds – up to \$1,800 for student green teams – due Mon Oct 20

The Baltimore Office of Sustainability, in partnership with City Schools, is excited to announce the opening of the 2025-2026 [Green, Healthy, Smart Challenge](#) providing support for student-led environmental sustainability and greening initiatives in City Schools. Schools designated as a Maryland Green School can request up to \$1,800. All other schools can request up to \$1,300. Applications will be accepted until Oct 20. Have questions? Contact [Ebony Smith](#), Community and Youth Engagement Coordinator at the Baltimore Office of Sustainability. (See attached graphic.)

As always, reach out with questions, comments & suggestions!

Joanna

Joanna Pi-Sunyer

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[Sustainability Resources](#)

[Aug/Sep Green Schools Updates newsletter](#)

[Book a meeting with me](#)


Fw: Farm to School Offerings - FREE Great Kids Farm Field Trip for your school?

From Lokounia, Elena <Elokounia@bcps.k12.md.us>

Date Fri 2023-08-04 12:57 PM

To Tchapda, Beatrice K. <BKTchapda@bcps.k12.md.us>

Cc Sindjui, Henriette N. <HNSindjui@bcps.k12.md.us>; Moore, Susan A. <SAMoore@bcps.k12.md.us>; Richburg, Tara M <TMRichburg@bcps.k12.md.us>

 1 attachment (2 MB)

FarmtoSchoolOverview2023.png;

FYI ... thank you.

Elena Lokounia

Principal

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"International Education for Global Leadership"

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From: Rosenthal, Anne C <ACRosenthal@bcps.k12.md.us>

Sent: Friday, August 4, 2023 12:29 PM

Subject: Farm to School Offerings - FREE Great Kids Farm Field Trip for your school?

Hello!

Our Farm to School team is looking forward to another great year of hands-on learning at Great Kids Farm and at schools across our district. Hope you enjoyed your summer!

One of our cornerstone offerings is a **FREE K-5 (full grade) field trip to Great Kids Farm**. If you are receiving this email, it's because we have not hosted a field trip from your school in recent years...and we'd like to change that! **Our field trip request form is now open [here](#) for Fall and Spring trips. Please read information at the top of the form fully before answering all questions. We tend to fill all slots (for Fall + Spring) by the end of Fall, so we encourage you to sign up soon!** If you are able to sign up for a September date, we'd love to fill those slots first.

As always, you can find info on all of our offerings (including classroom learning kits, school-based programs, student summits at GKF, service learning opportunities at GKF, school garden supports, and more) at www.baltimorecityschools.org/farm-school, and our team email is farms@bcps.k12.md.us. I've also attached a 1-pager outlining all offerings.

I'll also highlight that our first **Farm Family Hours** session of the year will take place at Great Kids Farm on **8/18, 2:30-5:30pm**. Please join us with your families to kick off the school year -- and spread the word! Flyers coming soon...but in the meantime, (optional) registration form is at <http://Bit.ly/GKFfamilies>.

Thanks again,
Anne

Anne Rosenthal (she/her)
[Farm to School](#) Specialist
Food & Nutrition Services
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Upcoming 2nd Grade Field Trip – Great Kids Farm

From Velez, Mariela C <MCVelez@bcps.k12.md.us>

Date Tue 2025-09-30 12:55 PM

To kyrafinney.kf@gmail.com <kyrafinney.kf@gmail.com>; keisha.atlee@outlook.com <keisha.atlee@outlook.com>; yvette_browne00@yahoo.com <yvette_browne00@yahoo.com>; boldenkailaa@gmail.com <boldenkailaa@gmail.com>; margaritaperez83@hotmail.com <margaritaperez83@hotmail.com>; margaritaperez83@hotmail.com <margaritaperez83@hotmail.com>; atoney5615@comcast.net <atoney5615@comcast.net>; hansboro.odessa@gmail.com <hansboro.odessa@gmail.com>; DePina, Kayon <KDePina@bcps.k12.md.us>; sadespears4@gmail.com <sadespears4@gmail.com>; sadespears4@gmail.com <sadespears4@gmail.com>; DBranch21@icloud.com <DBranch21@icloud.com>; tationiab@gmail.com <tationiab@gmail.com>; shawnietay21202@yahoo.com <shawnietay21202@yahoo.com>; crustbymack@gmail.com <crustbymack@gmail.com>; jukiam@gmail.com <jukiam@gmail.com>; cterrea@yahoo.com <cterrea@yahoo.com>; kcurtis728@gmail.com <kcurtis728@gmail.com>; 1mrswalkert@gmail.com <1mrswalkert@gmail.com>; paulajohnson3@yahoo.com <paulajohnson3@yahoo.com>

Cc BIA Admin Team SY25-26 <biaadminteamSY25-26@CitySchools2013.onmicrosoft.com>

Dear Families,

We are excited to share that our 2nd graders will be going on a **field trip to Great Kids Farm on Monday, October 13, 2025**. This will be a wonderful opportunity for students to **see plants and animals in their natural environment**, directly connecting to what we are currently learning in class about living things, adaptations, and the environment.

The trip is **completely free for all students**. Transportation for students will be provided by the school.

Students will be bringing home the **permission slips tomorrow**, so please check their folders and return the signed forms promptly.

🌟 **We want to highlight that having parent chaperones is extremely important and necessary for this trip.** 🌟

If you are able to join us, please know that:

- Entry is free for parents.
- Transportation is **not** included, so you will need to meet us directly at Great Kids Farm.
- Your presence and support will make this trip possible and ensure our students have a safe and meaningful experience.

👉 Please reply to this email as soon as possible if you are available to chaperone.

Thank you, as always, for your support. We are looking forward to a fun and educational experience for our students!

Warmly,
Mariela Vélez
2nd Grade Teacher