

GROWTH DIARY

MARCH -
OCTOBER 2009

SLOVENIA

MARCH



It all started with brownish bean seeds that were sent from Wales to all eight countries.

Not only beans, we planted different pumpkin and sunflower seeds.



The pots were put on windowsills where they were watered and closely observed until there was something seen.



Meanwhile, our allotment was waiting to be cultivated. It looked hopeless and we did not know where to start. There were lots of stones and rubbish that had to be removed. April ahead of us will certainly be a working month.

APRIL

When students grabbed all available tools and enthusiastically started digging and cleaning, the allotment suddenly looked nicer and prepared for further procedure.



The plants inside the classroom were strong enough to be put into the soil outside.



We put the plants out of the pots and labeled each sort. When all of them were safely in the ground, we admired our first step in 'farming'.



Teachers and pupils work hand in hand.



MAY



Bad weather caused our plants looked like they had vanished. Small sprouts were still seen but so fragile that we were afraid they would not grow. Nevertheless, we did not surrender and continued our plans. First, we fenced our 'estate' so that deer and other animals could not eat or tread down the plants.

Runner beans were so weak that we had to provide a support for them. In the end, we decided to use a fish net. And it was not an easy task. Boys really did their best.



Once, the fence and the support were there, the further development depended on scrupulous students whose duty was to weed and water the plants daily. They visited the allotment every morning before lessons started and did all the vital work needed.



At the end of the month, first results were noticed. We became even more motivated.



JUNE

All three plants started blooming. We could not resist admiring red and yellow blossoms.



BEANS



PUMPKINS

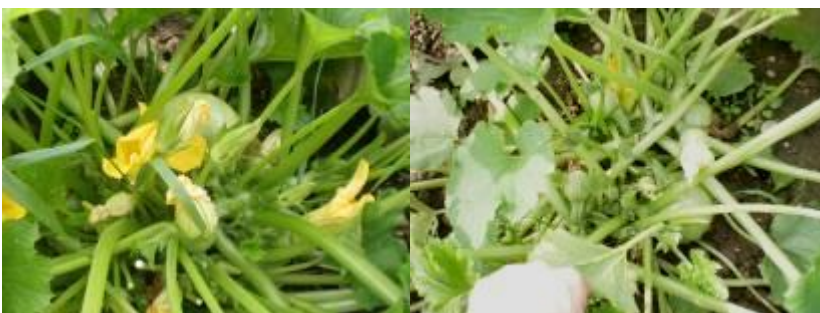


SUNFLOWERS

Some blossoms have already developed into pumpkins. They looked and - TASTED - wonderful. Yes, we prepared a meal - pumpkin fries. Everybody said they were delicious.



In our minds, there are many ideas how to use pumpkins that will be ripe only in September. Our holidays are a perfect opportunity for inventing some 'crazy' recipes.



Ladybirds bring us good luck. They are always present on our allotment.



JULY

The pumpkin and zucchini plants bear so much fruit that we prepared lots of different meals.



SOUP



COVERED
WITH
BREADCRUMBS
AND FRIED



LASAGNA



PICKLED



AUGUST

Dry and hot August ripened and sweetened all the crops. The sunflowers offer food to hungry birds, the beans continue blooming, and the pumpkins boast with a wonderful variety of edible and decorative sorts.



All colours can be seen on the allotment: hot red, bright orange, shiny yellow, innocent white and soothing green.



SEPTEMBER

It is time to harvest.
Students sorted the pumpkins into edible and decorative ones.
The beans have been shelled;
sunflower seeds collected and dried.



150
decorative
pumpkins,
more than 30
edible ones...
is the final
result of the
harvest.



On a sunny day,
parents and
children did a
wonderful
afternoon job. It
was quick and,
above all, fun.
'Let's do it every
year, teacher!'



We used
pumpkins' 'meat'
for different
delicious meals,
and the seeds for
bread and snacks.
Otherwise, the
seeds are squeezed
to get thick,
odorous and
precious pumpkin
oil.



OCTOBER

The mini project *Grow Your Own Dinner* has ended. We had a lot of work but it gave us tremendous pleasure while watching the seeds sprout, grow and give fruits.

In October, all we planted was used for different meals. Every student cooperated in cooking, stewing and preserving. The parents had an opportunity of tasting and buying what we have grown (decorative pumpkins) and prepared (starters, soup, main meals, desserts, compotes).



Slicing,
chopping,
stewing, baking
and frying.
Whatever the
procedure and
meal, pumpkins
proved to be
superb and
delicious.



Waiting to be sold.

School
market with
stalls was a
success.
We were
selling
vegetables
we have
grown and
various
dishes made
from them.

