

Life Science class, 4/7 data

Sunday morning I took the plants we grew from seeds and transplanted them in two garden boxes at school. Before doing this I made final measurements of plant heights, so these will comprise the last dataset in your notebooks. As of April 5th: T1 8.6 cm; T2 8.7 cm (no change); W1 5.3 cm (no change); W2 10.8 cm; (basil) B 2.6 cm; and GB (still only 1 sprout) 3 cm. **Please record these data and upon returning from the Spring Break vacation, we will make X-Y graphs and calculate growth rates.**

Beginning in February, I began composting food scraps in the middle garden box. This process continued through the weekend of March 21–22 and at least 10 lbs of food scraps were composted. I also transferred the worm farm (which had been in a rubber bin on the front porch at school) to the middle garden box to help break down the food scraps. Ideally, the organic material from the composted food scraps will serve as fertilizer to increase the growth and yield of plants. I will let the new plants ‘settle in’ for a week and, hopefully, none will die. Then I will measure the height of each to establish a new baseline for future comparisons between plants in fertilized (composted food scraps and worm farm) versus unfertilized soil.

Finally, I planted some new seeds to add variety and fill up the garden boxes. Since we didn’t have much luck with green beans sprouting, I planted four seeds in each box. New things that I planted include: four sunflower seeds in each box and four nasturtium seeds in each box. Please look up nasturtium on the internet and you will see how it serves a dual purpose.

New data for bird sightings include: April 4th male cardinal and black-capped chickadee; April 5th male and female cardinals; April 6th male cardinal, black-

capped chickadee, (red) house finch; and April 7th mourning dove, female cardinal, and (red) house finch. **Please record these sightings in your notebook.**

There was a troubling development at our feeding station for the birds. Yesterday afternoon I saw a black cat lurking in plants along the fence line. It was keeping a very-close eye on the bird feeder and obviously wanted to catch a bird. When I chased the cat away, it ran to its home under the porch next to our pond (this is the kitten that was born on Friday the 13th last October). If any birds meet their demise due to the cat, we will have to stop feeding the birds. I would like to continue for a while in order to determine when the gold finches turn a vibrant yellow. As the cardinals are frequent visitors to the feeder, I think the color of the male has become a brighter red.