

Hi, my name is Caitlyn and I will tell you something that happened in the garden. On the 13th of October it was four days before the garden festival. The Wednesday before, Izzy, Sarah and I all had to paint a tepee. Our tepee was quite dark with different features such as flying bananas, weird demented owls and sleeping frog dogs.

I like the garden because there is always work to do and Michelle always makes the work fun to do and work isn't always exactly fun. (Jordan, 4K)

Well, I'm writing about The Patch School Garden. Four years ago, I was looking out on an out of bounds area and I thought what a pale area and I thought about how much potential it had and I wondered and I wondered.

The year is 2010 and we have an Eco-Centre and many different gardens. I am looking out on what was the most pale part of the school and is now the heart of it.

The Patch garden has won two regional garden awards and one state award, we have a garden team, where there was grass we have built an eco-centre. It took two years and now I am writing in it. The garden was the biggest leap the school has ever had. (Kiya, 4Y)

My favourite part of the garden is the Maze and my favourite part of the Eco-Centre is the animals! I love animals! The animals we have are frogs, fish, guinea pigs, budgies, chickens, chicks and bearded dragons. My favourite are the rabbits and chicks. (Lusy, 4K)

When I'm in enviro I just feel free as if you are just floating away in the middle of nowhere. Last week I was building cubbies and we were the best cubby there. There was already a roof but we took it down and fixed it up and then put it back up. After that we built a corridor but made out of trees and branches. (Tannon, 4K)

I was walking down the sawdust path that made me feel so special to have such a wonderful garden so close to me. I looked to the left and saw the ABC garden and the Eco-Centre, then I looked to the right and saw the Australia Garden and our Vegetable Gardens. I don't know how this place could make me feel so relaxed, so proud and so special. I kept on walking until I came to the door of the Eco-Centre. I peeking inside the window to see animals, happy animals. (Tom G, 4K)

Last year in grade 3, we tried to hatch baby chickens. We got some fertile eggs from a farm and some grades got to put the eggs in the incubator. We also put in four duck eggs. It took 21 days for the chickens to hatch and 28 days for the ducks to hatch. Lots of the eggs didn't hatch and went rotten. To test if they were rotten or not we put them in cold water, if they sank they were not rotten, if they floated they were rotten. Now they are grown up and just had more eggs put under the chickens so they can hatch and won't fight with the newcomers. (Isabella, grade 4)

In the enviro garden I feel safe and at home. When I walk down from my classroom to get to the garden, I feel that something good will happen today. The enviro garden has been a great part of the school and has been through hard work and without Michelle we couldn't have done all of it. (Bernie, 4K)

It was a nice sunny day when I went outside. Birds and bees were everywhere; that was when I realized why we have gardens - it's so we have these wonderful animals because what's a school without animals? It isn't one, and we need gardens to make it beautiful as well. It makes the sun come out and the nature spread. We have an Eco-Centre with animals inside such as guinea pigs, rabbits, fish, lizards and stick insects. (Shenay 4K)

Right now we are working on a "Living Landscape", this is a grade 3/4 activity and it is going well. I can't wait to go on with it again. (Caroline, grade 4)

Today we are working on our "Living Landscape" which at the minute has two willow domes, three dragons nests, cubbies up the back, an orchard and a garden around the grade three classrooms. (Bree, 3/4L)

I really like the chickens and chicks. I like the chicks because they are so fluffy. I think the garden is really cool and I especially like the willow domes. The garden festival was awesome. (Monte 3/4L)

When the garden started I wasn't even in school. But when I got to school, I got to discover the wonderful creatures of our school. Even in prep I got to be a part of the garden. We got to hold guinea pigs and rabbits and insects. I was as much a part of the garden as anybody else.

In grade one, I got to discover the wetlands. In the wetlands we were allowed to sit by the water and listen to the birds singing and the frogs croaking.

In grade two we got to go bugcatching. We had a sheet of paper that had all the bugs that lived in the water. It was fun doing it on hot days but I never enjoyed it on cold days! (Willow, grade 3)

I was always interested in building things so when I heard that we could build cubbies I went right in. I had a few problems at the start in the garden because I didn't know much but four year later (now) I know a lot of stuff like how to dig up grass and still be able to use it again. The garden is the best thing I have done in school. (Tom R, 3/4L)

I like doing enviro because I can see and touch everything. I think my favourite part of enviro is making the cubbies out of sticks because we got to work in teams and also because it was really hands on.

When I get home after enviro, my mum always asks me why my clothes are so dirty and my answer is always the same, "I was outside in enviro".

I love being outside so I always look forward to enviro. (Holly, 3/4L)

The garden is a great place to learn and have a great time. The garden came to life in 2006. I love the garden and all its wonders. We have the Water Garden with life living in it, the Dry Garden with native plants and animals, the Pizza Garden with yummy herbs, the Winter Vegetable Garden with peas in it, the Summer Vegetable Garden with healthy food and the Koori Garden. We have a range of different animals and have gotten so much done with the community helping, working bees and so much help from the children. (Alyce, 3/4L)

Our garden has been an inspiration of learning new things and planting plants, weeding weeds and building cubbies out of branches. We have a Pizza Garden and a Pizza Oven – I cannot believe this was just grass in 2005. We have come a long way since then.
(Jake H. 4K)

The garden keeps growing since 2006 and it will grow for a long time. Kids will be part of it and adults and teacher will be too. (Darcy 3/4L)

The garden is a great subject to learn at school. I am so lucky to learn enviro because not many schools have a place to build a garden and also we have a great teacher who feeds us doses of knowledge every week. I think the garden is perfect, it makes me feel joyful, excited and proud. I know that I helped in the garden and that's the best feeling because you can't describe that feeling. (Grace, 3/4L)

The sun on your face, the bird sounds in your ears, these are just some of the reasons I love the garden. My favourite part of the garden project so far was going bug catching in grade 2. I remember Leroy finding a dead tadpole with legs. I also like making fairy gardens while most of the boys made fern huts. I like drawing diagrams of animals and holding animals. When you are in the garden, your mind just drifts off somewhere else. The best feeling I've had is the Garden Festival; the music, the bubbles and just that magical feeling. (Lucy 3/4L)

I like to make the cubbies on the oval. It made me go and build a cubby at my house. I also like to look at the stick insects. I have owned three stick insects in the past two years. I think of my mum like Michelle because when we drive down the street or are playing in the garden she names all the plants' names...My big sister has her own garden. (Toby 4K)

My favourite gardening experience was when we won the garden awards: the Eastern Metropolitan Regional Garden (twice) and the

State Garden Award.....After three years of hard work we had an eco-centre, a pizza oven, 12 different gardens and a stage. It looked wonderful and it still does, and we also have an igloo and pets with a chick hut for the chickens. Now we're working on grade 3/4 projects and are planning to get a ropes course, a slide, some cubbies and lots of other things. (Thomas Gilbert grade 3/4L)