

# COMPOST KIDS

Presented by Barbara Miglio & Sara Sellitti

Supported by Pamela Davis (Compost Educator), Braeden Cohen (Waste Management Specialist) and the staff at the Greenburgh Nature Center



- Pamela Davis introduces composting and the 3 types that are underway at Springhurst to every K-5 student in Spring of 2016 at Compost Day.
- Students learn that all of their sorted food waste in the cafeteria will be made into compost on-site for the garden, closing the loop on their food cycle.
- Greenburgh Nature Center presents grade appropriate demos for proper compost & recycling at Springhurst in September of 2016

## What is Compost?

When a leaf falls on the forest floor, it breaks down over a period of time. There are many organisms (macro and micro/visible to the eye or need a microscope to see). These creatures are also known as decomposers (worms, centipedes, sow bugs, fungus) that eat, digest and breakdown dead plant and animal material to make a dark substance called **humus**. This **humus** goes back into the ground to build healthy soil.

When we (humans) make **humus**, it's called **compost**. We can take our food scraps, plant material, paper, and yard waste and mix them to make **compost** that goes back into the Outdoor Classroom/Garden. With this enriched soil we can grow healthy fruits and vegetables for our school-wide soup and salad day!



## The Outdoor Classroom /Garden

In the past, compost has been purchased or donated. The 28 bed organic garden is now being sustained by compost produced on-site.



# What is needed to make compost?

Whether you are composting indoors with vermicomposting (worms), outdoors using a 3-bin garden system, or an enclosed tumbler for food scraps, they all need the same 3 things:

## Carbon & Nitrogen

Browns (dry) & Greens (wet)  
Leaves, woodchips & weeds, and organic material

## Air

Composting is an aerobic (air needing process)

## Water/Moisture

Can come from the wet material you add or from a watering can

## Why Compost?

Compost diverts food waste from landfills and reduces methane gas that damages our planet. By composting, we reuse resources and realize that we cannot live a single use, disposable lifestyle if we want to sustain ourselves. Most importantly it teaches our children a sense of pride for their school, and environmental stewardship.

## New at Springhurst!

Rob Difiorer and his crew have completed construction of the facility compost bins, located by the bus circle, to process all organic waste generated in the lunchroom beginning Fall of 2016.



Springhurst Elementary is the first school in Westchester County to host an **on-site facility size compost bin system led by the custodial staff**. Finished compost will be returned to the garden to enrich the soil and provide mulch for the grounds of all 3 Dobbs Ferry school campuses. If you would like more information about Compost Kids, please contact Barbara Miglio at [Migliob@dfsd.org](mailto:Migliob@dfsd.org) or Sara Sellitti at [ssuskin1@mac.com](mailto:ssuskin1@mac.com)