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### **Madeira Fourth Graders Help Lead**

Each year a group of twelve Madeira Elementary School (MES) fourth graders helps to improve MES and spread school spirit with school-wide initiatives. They are the MES Student Leaders.

The group consists of twelve peer-elected students from each homeroom. During the 2020-2021 school year they have helped with recycling and stocking the NEEDS pantry food drive. They were ambassadors for the school's CARE month which focused on thanking their community heroes; crossing guards, police officers, custodial staff, office staff, their school nurse, and cafeteria workers.

For the second year, the Student Leaders have also been responsible for planting and maintaining the school's vertical aeroponic Tower Garden. The Tower Garden offers a cleaner, simpler, more efficient way to grow healthy produce by using a vertical design along with water, liquid nutrients, and a soilless growing medium. The fourth graders planted different varieties of lettuce and herbs like cilantro, chives, and parsley in the garden in the fall. They've spent the last few months regularly caring for and maintaining the garden with water, liquid nutrients, and by testing the garden's PH.

The Tower Garden was purchased last year by the school's Lifetime of Giving Grant Committee, which recognizes that good nutrition affects the health and well-being of the district's students. "We are very proud of our leaders for maintaining the garden and keeping up with the health of our plants," Student leader Advisor Brigid Williamson said. "This special growing project holds a different level this year, as we know we can thrive after the toughest winters."

After a recent harvest from their Tower Garden, the Student Leaders served their classmates and other fourth grade teachers Jackie Jansen, Michelle Marketos, and Jared McFee a healthy snack of greens.

This year's MES Student Leaders are Sloan Slaughter, Annie Kusak, Brooks Harbison, Michael Dershem, Emma Oxenham, Drew Dobelhoff, Henry Helmick, Graham Larson, Bijou Byrnes, Ava Gentilly, Eliza Moses, and Jackson Ventura. Advisors are Brigid Williamson and Katie Naegeli.



*Pictured (left)  
Eliza Moses  
and the MES  
Tower  
Garden*



*Pictured are Savannah Homm, Izzy Oyler,  
and Eliza Moses enjoying the harvest*