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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Cypress Grove Montessori Academy Fall Garden Project

Cypress Grove Montessori Academy has launched a Fall Garden Project in which families, students, and staff work to maintain the garden area and provide fresh produce and real life experiences to everyone involved.

This project has provided many opportunities for family and community involvement. Parent volunteer Roxanne Jenkins made initial plans and helped prepare for the placement of the gardens. Grandparent volunteer Jerry Martin tilled the ground to prepare the soil for planting.

Jenkins and her son were able to cultivate seeds for cucumbers, zinnias, marigolds, and pumpkins. Other families have made donations of plants such as cabbage and green onions to grow in the garden as well.

Students used egg shells from the chickens that they students care for to use as nutrients for the soil when planting. They also painted garden markers so they can tell which plants are growing in the various garden beds.

Paraprofessional Dianna Porche and Coach Chad Carter have helped students clean and prepare the raised garden beds as well as plant the last of the crops of radishes, cucumbers, pumpkins, and peppers.

Teachers Hannah Errington and Lee Granier attended Louisiana State University Ag Day Professional Development to gather knowledge on connecting this garden project with educational learning. With this training, they have developed additional projects moving forward including hosting a cook off using the plants produced. They are also looking into creating a fresh market with students selling the crops they produce.