



## News from the Delta Garden Study

Addressing Childhood Obesity in the Central and Delta Regions of Arkansas  
Headquartered in Little Rock, Arkansas

April/May 2011



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### Mabelvale Garden Update

The last couple of months at



### Groundbreaking Ceremonies Usher in Four New Garden Schools

Groundbreaking Ceremonies have taken place at each of our four new intervention schools. School staff, students, community members, and Delta Garden Study team members came together at Harrisburg Middle

School, Monticello Middle School, Highland Middle School, and Searcy County School District at Marshall High to celebrate their new gardens. Each school will receive full-time Garden Program Specialists in early June who will build and maintain the gardens and assist in the implementation of the DGS curriculum. Pictures from the ceremonies and other events are displayed on our website. Welcome to all of our new schools!

Mabelvale have been spent enjoying the fruits of labor. Spring brought lettuce, broccoli, carrots, green onions, snow and sugar snap peas, potatoes and tons of hearty greens. Strawberries were the big hit - students would pop out to the garden between classes and search for a quick juicy berry. Now, as the temperatures rise and the day lengthens, students have been turning all those cool weather crops over to warmer weather friends. Tomatoes and peppers are creeping into beds and irrigation has become a necessity. We wrapped up the school year with a friday afternoon farmer's market where the students sold produce to parents and neighborhood community members. Parts of the garden will continue to produce while others will be planted in a cover crop through the summer and then reopened as fall approaches. Mabelvale will be looking for volunteers to help out this summer so anyone interested is encouraged to contact the school!



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## Monticello Middle School's Garden Program

**Specialist Selected** The Delta Garden Study is proud to announce its Garden Program Specialist for Monticello Middle School for the 2011-2012 school year.

**Liana Harden** comes to us from Portland, Oregon. A native of Oklahoma, she is excited to get back to the mid-western and southern region of the country. Her Masters degree specializes in garden

education and has allowed her to spend the last two years gathering a tremendous amount of experience in a Portland elementary school garden program. We are all thrilled to have her on board. Welcome to the team, Liana!



## Henderson Middle School Finishes Up Its Year as a Comparison School

Henderson Health Sciences Middle School officially wrapped up its year as a comparison school during the Delta

Garden Study's pilot year. Approximately 200 students completed final measurements during the last week of April. Many, many, many thanks to all of the students and staff at Henderson who provided their time and energy to this project.



## Mabelvale Magnet Middle School Receives Farm Bureau School Garden Grant

The Farm Bureau of Arkansas recently awarded Mabelvale Magnet Middle School a \$500 grant to help sustain the gardens and greenhouse that were implemented by the Delta Garden

Study. The Outdoor Classroom Garden Mini-Grant Program is designed to show

how agriculture is an integral part of our everyday environment. Mabelvale will be purchasing seeds, fertilizer, compost, wheat straw and chicken feed with the money. They will also use some of the funds to buy new gloves and boots for the students. Graham Goodloe, Environmental Sciences teacher, and the administration at Mabelvale Magnet Middle School, will continue working with the staff of the Delta Garden Study as their sustainability plan unfolds. Congratulations to them on this funding award!

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Thank you for your interest in the Delta Garden Study.

