

## **WINNER: "BEST NEW SCHOOL GARDEN"**

### **Mundo Verde PCS**

*Reagan Y. , Sasha B. , Andrew M. , Emmalee J.*

"I love my garden. It's big and small. Some plants are big and some are small. We share this world, we love it too. We swim and play all day. Our garden is a calmful place that is a peaceful and fun place with good memories. When we move we'll miss that school but...it's still our favorite school to have fun." -*Reagan, 1st grade*

"Our garden is great. After all the fruits and vegetables are planted, we can cook. My favorite part is cooking. I cook in school and at home. We made pupusas, tomatillo salsa, and lots more. Our garden has tomatoes, beets, garlic, mint and more." -*Sasha, 1st grade*

"Our school garden is the best because we have fun times in it! I like to pick vegetables and then eat them. We picked the carrots, cut them and pickled them to share with our friends. And I like to dig and find wonderful creatures." -  
*Andrew M., 1st grade*

"My job at the garden is planting flowers and vegetables." -*Emmalee, 1st grade*

# **WINNER: “BEST SUSTAINED SCHOOL GARDEN”**

## **Watkins ES**

*Louise Banks*

I am 5th grader from Watkins ES. Imagine yourself walking through the garden. You can feel the soil under your feet, an important part of a cycle called decomposition. You can feel the sun smiling, an important part of the garden called photosynthesis. And the plants! You could smell that basil from a mile away!! Can you feel that little flower nestling your feet, waiting to be pollinated? Yes, we have learned about pollination, too! And who tends to it during the year? Our amazing gardener Mrs. Percival, parents and us students! When we go to the garden, there is a ring of benches at one end. We find a seat, listen to directions, and split into

groups, ready to get our hands dirty!!! In first grade we learned about the different parts of the plant. In third grade, we learned all about nutrition, and energy and nutrient dense foods. In fourth grade, we learned about the Three Sisters, and where some foods originated. Now, in fifth grade I'm so excited to learn more! Watkins has many gardens. In the Children's Garden, we have logs to play on, and flowers and bugs to examine. In the Seasons Garden, we have different plants from each season. In the FoodPrints Garden, we plant and harvest foods to cook, learn about and eat. We are always harvesting delicious vegetables and planting new seeds. I think our garden should win the best school garden award because our garden is teaching us new things constantly.

# **WINNER: “BEST SUSTAINED SCHOOL GARDEN”**

## **St. Coletta**

*Devonte Barksdale and Tyler Dargan-Washington*

Our garden at St. Coletta is the best in Washington, DC. Our school serves students with special abilities and needs ranging from ages 3 to 22 years old. All of the students at our school learn by using the garden. We have a wide variety of plants that are made of different colors, sizes, shapes and smells. Not only do we use the garden to learn about plants and insects we also use vegetables from the garden to cook weekly meals and learn about nutrition. Students help maintain the garden by planting, watering, weeding, digging, and harvesting. The garden has a lot of space where people can walk around and look at the plants, vegetables, fruits,

herbs, and scarecrows. Some of the students can relax and enjoy the garden and the beautiful scenery.

Students also use the garden for our landscaping job site. We garden organically and naturally. We don't use pesticides. Instead we plant plants that keep bugs away. We keep our garden trash free. We compost waste from the garden then use the compost in the garden. We use the water that comes from the school roof for the garden.

Our garden is a learning experience not just for students but for teachers, staff, visitors, and our community. It will improve our quality of life by teaching us about healthier living. Also it will improve our way of thinking about the future of our environment.