

## **Students Learning through Urban Gardening FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS (FAQ)**

Q: What is the purpose of SLUG?

- A:
- 1. To teach successful vegetable gardening techniques to students and teachers in Boston public schools.**
  - 2. To implement “seed to harvest” gardening with students and use gardening lessons and activities to meet curriculum standards**

Q: What will teachers and students achieve by participating in SLUG?

- A: **It is hoped that students and teachers will gain, among other things:**
- 1. Enhanced understanding of biology, ecology and other sciences**
  - 2. Increased curiosity**
  - 3. Hands on garden knowledge**
  - 4. An interest in taking care of living things**
  - 5. Experience of the natural world in an urban setting**
  - 6. A greater appreciation for and understanding of the process of growing food.**

Q: What materials and support does SLUG provide for teachers?

- A:
- 1. Professional Development Points (PDPs) at Teacher’s Trainings**
  - 2. SLUG Handbook**
  - 3. Supplemental Activities**
  - 4. Teacher’s training sessions**
  - 5. SLUG ongoing technical support and supplies**
  - 6. Supplies, according to the SLUG activities teachers are signed up for (see Site Agreement and Materials Request for complete list)**
  - 7. For more information visit BNAN website and the SLUG wikispace:  
<http://www.bostonnatural.org/SLUG.htm>  
<http://bnan.wikispaces.com/>**

Q: What will be the teacher’s role in the SLUG program?

- A:
- 1. Teachers, prepared by attending SLUG teacher trainings, will schedule, set up, implement and maintain gardening activities with the students according to schedule**
  - 2. Select SLUG Supplemental Activities to meet and/or enhance BPS learning standards**
  - 3. Attend SLUG Teacher’s Trainings**
  - 4. Inform SLUG staff of garden progress**

Q: How do I know when to start SLUG activities?

- A:
- 1. SLUG gardening activities and maintenance tasks, i.e., when to plant, transplant, harvest) are charted on a calendar in the SLUG Handbook**
  - 2. SLUG emails will prompt teachers when to start activities, depending on whether students are growing indoor under lights, outdoors under season protectors, or composting with an indoor worm bin or an outdoor bin.**
  - 3. SLUG staff will highlight a “Lesson of the Month” for teachers and students**
  - 4. There is a three-week window to set up and implement suggested activities**

Q: What will the role of SLUG staff be in my classroom?

- A:
- 1. Technical gardening support and SLUG program information**
  - 2. Timely delivery of materials and supplies**
  - 3. Site visits to each teacher, providing refresher activity know-how and other assistance**
  - 4. Occasional site visits to document program**

Q: How do I coordinate SLUG staff deliveries of materials?

- A:
- 1. Each SLUG site will have a Site Coordinator who will compile a list of all the materials needed by the school and report this to SLUG so that one delivery can be made.**
  - 2. The Site Coordinator will arrange deliveries with SLUG staff (though it is encouraged that teachers be present for deliveries, so they can ask the SLUG staff any immediate, pressing questions)**

Q: Does my school have to apply and be accepted to the SLUG program to receive support and supplies?

- A:
- 1. Yes**
  - 2. See the Site Agreement and Materials Request for complete list**

Q: Does my school have to be accepted to the SLUG program before teachers can use the SLUG Handbook and Supplemental Activities?

- A:
- 1. No**
  - 2. You will not receive technical support or supplies, but teachers and students interested in gardening are welcome to use the materials**
  - 3. The SLUG program strongly suggests teachers and students use the vast array of vegetable and plant science curriculum activities available, as the SLUG program notes many of these and has made several available in the Supplemental Activities**
  - 4. To access the SLUG Handbook and Supplemental Activities, visit:**  
<http://bnan.wikispaces.com/>
  - 4. On an "as available" basis, teachers not at SLUG sites can sign up and attend SLUG Teacher's Trainings**

Q: What will happen to our plants, supplies and compost bin worms over the summer?

- A:
- 1. SLUG staff will pick up all materials and supplies before the BPS summer session**
  - 2. SLUG will arrange for temporary adoption of plants and compost worms, or teachers can arrange with SLUG staff to care for them over the summer**

