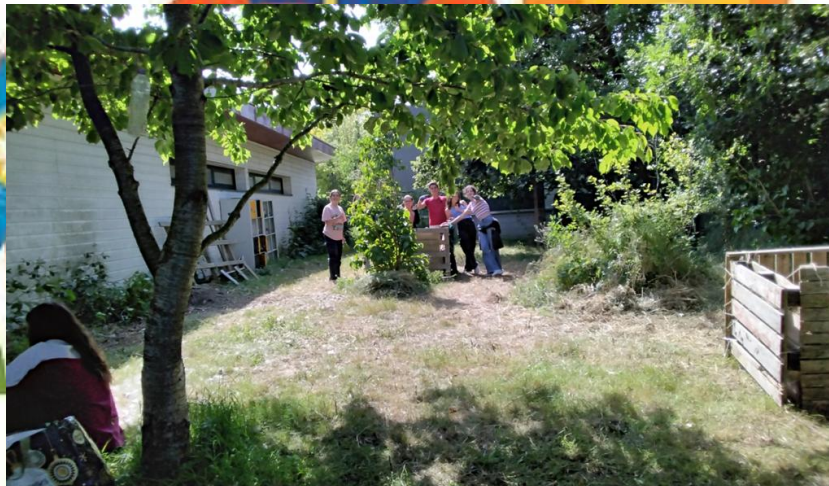


**Mission :**  
***Realize a school garden***



**4<sup>ème</sup> A students**

**June 2023**

# Introduction

During two weeks in May, we went outside to create a school garden.

Each student spent two classes in the garden. We learnt about the benefits of school gardens and biodiversity. We brought some organic matter and gardening tools to work outside. Even some teachers helped the project by giving their own organic matter for the garden!

We didn't buy anything. Everything was second-hand or free !

We built a gardening raised-bed, with different layers, we made compost, we took photos, we prepared the soil before planting, we cut some grass, we planted seeds, flowers, potatoes and tomatoes and watered the ground.

At the end of the sequence, we answered a survey about how we liked the activities.

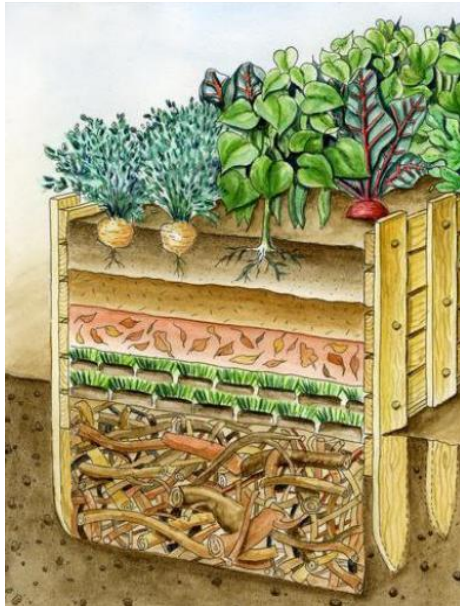




# how to make compost ?

In the garden, we created a compost. You thought that making a compost is very easy? We will tell you about it. Between wooden planks or pallets, we added **different layers of organic matter** : the first layer is wood sticks or branches. Then, a group of students cut grass and started to make the second layer. We picked up leaves and foliage to make the third layer.

There are two more layers : one made of horse manure. The final layer is garden soil mixed with compost soil.



## We alternate carbon and nitrogen layers :

- Nitrogen comes from lush, green material such as grass cuttings.
  - Carbon comes from brown material, such as woody chips and cardboard.
- For every load of green material, you need to add the same volume of brown.

# what are eco-schools?

An eco-school is a school that takes care of the environment, where students participate in activities to reduce waste and their consumption of water and energy.

They study the importance of biodiversity, a healthy living and solidarity.



For example, they can organise a school garden, make compost, plant trees, vegetable and flower seeds. At the canteen they can eat the fruits and vegetables they grow.

They can have solar panels the buildings.

Some eco-schools can use rain water to flush the toilets.

# the benefits of school gardens

What is beneficial in a school garden is that it is natural, organic and it allows to grow plants or vegetables, to attract insects with organic matter thus to encourage biodiversity.

It keeps students busy while teaching them how to create a garden from recycled materials and organic matter.

We created this garden while paying attention to the surrounding environment.

***And it's good for nature!***



## Eco gardens in schools also

- \* raise environmental awareness
- \* encourage physical exercise
- \* develop hands on skills
- \* enable scientific study of live organisms
- \* reduce stress through the contact with nature



# how we prepared the soil

To prepare the soil, we made layers of organic matter : wood sticks, tree leaves, hay or straw, horse manure, grass, vegetable peelings and earth. After a few weeks, the grounds will be transformed into a fertile soil. First, we delimited a zone with wood and used a broad fork to lighten the soil.



Next, we put grass and hay to bring nitrogen and carbon to the soil. Then, we put horse droppings, wood sticks, tree leaves and grass again.

To finish, we watered the soil and we added some hay on the top to protect it from the sun and the wind.

***When we finished, the soil was almost ready !***



# how we made a raised garden bed

We built a raised garden bed with 4 pallets, cardboard and strings.

**The objective of the raised bed** is to protect the plants from the wind, too much sun or rain.

First, **we prepared the soil** : with a broad fork, we lightened it. Then, we fixed the 4 pallets together with the string. To finish the bed, we covered its inside « walls » with cardboard.



**Inside**, we put organic matter to make a kind of compost with straw, grass, earth, leaves, wood sticks, horse droppings, etc...

Then, we planted seeds of different green manure, sunflowers, corn and germinated potatoes.

In the end, we watered the plants.



# how we planted the seeds and plants

Students brought material and seeds for the garden.

We dug little holes in the soil with a garden trowel. We planted different types of seeds : artichoke, corn, melon, courgette, butternut and flowers.

A student also brought tomato plants. We placed them in bigger pots. After this, we filled the holes with organic matter.



We planted lots of vegetables in plant pots and placed them in the gardening raised bed.

We covered plants pots with hay to protect them. We placed labels in each pot or plant to identify them.

In the end, we watered the layers and seeds in the plant pots.



# How we liked the project, what we learnt What we will do next...

After going in the garden, we answered a **survey** in class to see how we enjoyed the experience. In the 4A class, students liked creating a school garden!

**The activities that they liked the most** are planting seeds and preparing the soil. On the contrary, **those they liked the less** are cutting grass and handling organic matter. The students learned how to prepare the soil.



Most students would like to continue the experience of school gardening next year. Most students have a garden at home. For example, some students would like to create a garden at home, do more gardening in their garden or help their parents gardening.

# And now, it's time to take some plants home!

**During the summer holidays**, there will be no one to take care of the garden. So students who can will take a pot with a plant to their house. Other plants (like corn, potatoes, green manure) will enrich the soil during the summer, so next year, other students can plant in a fertile soil.



***- Thank you for reading our report -***