

FACA third, fourth graders complete LGEG program



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Extension Agent

The middle of May marked the completion of a very rewarding and successful collaboration of the Texas A&M AgriLife Extension's "Learn, Grow, Eat and Go" (LGEG) program with Full Armor Christian Academy's third and fourth grades.

The Rusk County "Learn, Grow, Eat and Go!" nutrition and garden beds are a program of the Rusk County L.E.A.N. Coalition.

This coalition applied for and was awarded one of the 39, Texas Farm Bureau (TFB) "Learning From the Ground Up" garden grants sought by 91 applicants.

In addition to the TFB grant, match funding was also awarded by Rusk County Farm Bureau.

During the 13-week course, LGEG classes were held twice a week, and weekly lesson presenters were members of Rusk County L.E.A.N. Coalition and the Rusk County Master Gardeners.

Course speakers and helpers included: Bettye Scarborough, Della Mendez, Mandy Watson, Judy Stokes, James Pike, Liz Buckner, Grant Davis, Becky Rountree, Benny Rountree, Holli Briggs, Victoria Searcy Michelle Jackson, Ruby Jo Baker, Melba Wilkerson.

The program had the support of the classroom teachers: Katie Prior and Heather Holland, as well as the school administrator, Chris Ford.

Certificates of completion were awarded to Prior's third grade class members: Robert Canenquez, Caleb Dunahoe, Bryce Gibson, Taylor Hayner, Mynleigh LaGrone, Sam Marshall, Leah Payne, Syllis Pounds and Lilli Williams.

Certificates of completion were also awarded to Holland's fourth grade class members: Mia English, Lillie Furquerson, Jorden Jackson, Hudson Marcott, Karina Patterson, Aezlyn Powell, Zoe Rettig and Carter

Smith.

By the end of the program, students had harvested radishes, green and red cabbages, onions, white cauliflower, broccoli, red romaine lettuce, leaf lettuce, carrots, Swiss chard, peppers, spinach and mint.

Additionally, as was evidenced on the post surveys, students were given the opportunity to try foods they normally would not try and learn new experiences. These new experiences included trying new vegetables by way of classroom food demonstration taste tests, learning to plant seeds and vegetable plants and learning how to harvest vegetables.



Courtesy photo

The third and fourth grade classes of Full Armor Christian Academy are pictured with, James Pike and Liz Buckner, Rusk County L.E.A.N. Coalition; Bennie Whitworth, Rusk County Farm Bureau; Chris Ford, FACA school administrator; Becky Rountree, Rusk County Master Gardener; and Judy Stokes, Rusk County L.E.A.N. Coalition. Students completed the Rusk County "Learn, Grow, Eat, & Go!" programs.