Planting Diary

of AZALEA House

2025-2026

Description



蕃薯
Sweet potato



羽衣甘藍
Kale



紅菜頭
Beetroot



辣椒
Chili pepper

Description



小棠菜
Shanghai pak choi



通菜
Water Spinach



青瓜
Cucumbeer



莧菜
Amaranth

First lesson

In the first lesson, we tidied up the various boxes and Loose soil and fertilized solid waste manure! Eww! Let's wash the nets!



After that, we planted kale, chilis, cucumbers and sweet potatoes. Then we sprinkled in the cow bone meal and chicken manure fertilizer that the tutor prepared, which would promote the growth of roots.





After finishing the first lesson, we took a photo with our plants! What a wonderful time!





See! Our member was still taking care of our plants and cleaning up the floor even though others have left already!

Our Plants!

Here are our plants that plant on the first lesson.



Kale 羽衣甘藍



Cucumber 青瓜



Chili 辣椒



Sweet potato 蕃薯

To Provide a Better environment



Few days ago, our various boxes were suggested to change the position to a place where plants can absorb more sunlight. We worked together to move the various boxes to the most suitable location!



As what we have learnt from the biology lesson, the rate of photosynthesis will increase if the light intensity has been raised. Plant rise and shine!!





Unfortunately, there were rusty water droplets, possibly from the air conditioner, dripping onto our kale and beetroot right above the various box.

Oh no! Their leaves have turned yellow because of it. We needed to moved the box away from this area immediately!!

Bone meal



The tutor taught us to sprinkle the cow bone meals. She told us that it is primarily used as a slow-release organic fertilizer to supply plants with phosphorus and calcium. It is good for our plants!



After sparkling the cow bone meals, we had to **mix them directly into the soil** equally at the base of planting holes. It can **promote strong root development** and **helps prevent calcium-deficiency issues.**

Decorations

After the first lesson, our art director has made **nameplates** for our plants in order to identify our plants.









We also made some plaque for teachers and judges to **facilitate the rating**. We used our **own useless files** to make the plaque. We learned about **Eco-friendly**!

Reminders



Amaranth:

- Leaves should not be overlapping
- Mix the seeds with some sand and then sow them evenly.
- Remove overly dense seedlings



Water Spinach:

- Requires at least six hours of direct sunlight
- Has a very high water requirement



Shanghai pak choi:

- Thin to 1 seedling per hole when 2-3 true leaves appear
- Water daily but avoid soggy soil

Bamboo rack

At the third lesson, we have learnt how to make a bamboo rack by using **Simple Tying** and **Cross Mesh braiding method** for our cucumbers.





After serious consideration, we chose to use the cross-mesh braiding method because it can provides more support surface for the cucumber's vines to tangle, allowing it to be more solid and more evenly stressed.



chicken manure

Our tutor also taught us to use **chicken manure** for our plants to grow. Chicken manure is an **excellent natural organic fertilizer** that is **rich in nitrogen, phosphorus, potassium, and various micronutrients.**





Main Advantages :

- Rich in Nutrients
- Improves Soil Quality
- Gentle Fertilizer Effect



We needed to sparkle the chicken manure between plants and plants so that they can **absorb it better!**

Water seepage devices

Since no one will return to the school during the weekend, we used some dome old plastic bottles to make the water seepage devices.

Two bottles were placed in each plant box. We then inserted the bottles (filled with water) into the soil. This allows water seep into the soil slowly.

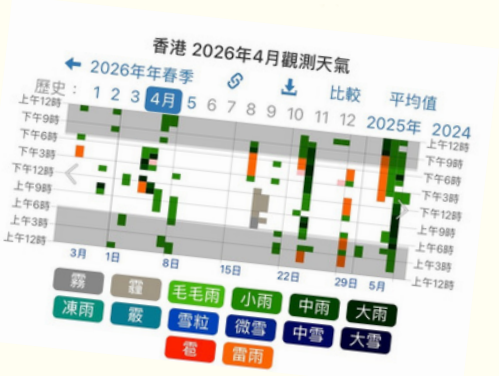




The Easter holiday was then coming
But no one will be back to school!
What can we do??

We made a timetable to make sure everyone can water the plants during the holiday.

When we were worried about our plants if no one could back to school, fortune knocks once at ours door!!
There were rainy days so our plants could have enough water to grow.
What a lucky streak!!!



Avoid insects 1



At the first beginning, we found that there was a net in our house's lockers! We use it to over our plants immediately.

However, life is not plain sailing. We found that the net could **not allow the light getting into our plants, it could not even pass through the net !**

Afterwe realized the problem, we bought the new net immediately!

During the waiting period, we tried to visit the plants more often.

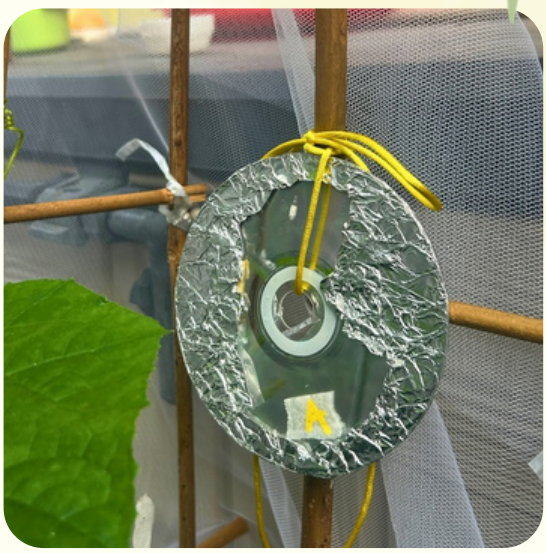




Few days later, our nets arrived! We covered our plants by using two new nets. They finally can **avoid the insects biting our plants**! Since there were some seem like white moth which called Aleyrodidae loved eating our kale, this net **played a key role to protect our plants**!

Avoid animals 2

Last year, the tutor taught us to use the CD to be **bird deterrent device**. We used the **tinfoil** to cover the picture sides. It **made reflective** on both sides.







We achieved a bird-repellent effect by using the CD's reflective properties. When sunlight strikes the CD, it **produces shimmering flashes through reflection** and **diffraction**, discouraging birds from approaching.

We learned to **reuse waste** and **transforming unused waste** at home **into plant-protecting devices**.



Avoid insects 3



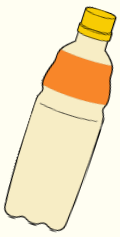
After the entire class, the tutor **rewarded us with several Yellow Sticky Trap** because of our excellent performance. Both sides are made of bright yellow plastic sheet or cardboard, with **adhesive coating on the surface**.

The tutor taught us to utilize some **old plastic bottles with Yellow Sticky Trap** on them



Yellow sticky traps utilize the fact that **pests are attracted to yellow to lure and trap them**, thereby allowing for monitoring of pest numbers or reducing adult insects. This is a common physical control tool for plants, used to combat pests with a "**yellow-attracting" trait**, such as aphids and whiteflies.

This tool is very helpful to us !

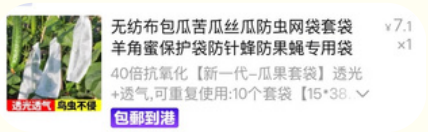


Look! Is cucumber!



At 6 of April, we found that there were new cucumber and yellow flower! We were the first group to brought some net for our cucumber because we noticed that some insects were bitten our cucumber. The net used to over our cucumber to avoid as much as possible from the insects.

Tutor said that cucumbers belong to the gourd family and are monoecious, meaning they grow both male and female flowers on the same plant. If you notice flowers at the tip, that means they're male flowers. The plant relies on insects to transfer pollen. When the flowers fall off, it indicates that pollination has been successful- then you just need to wait a little before harvesting!!





Journey of our first two cucumbers



10/4



17/4



26/4

Finally, we had two cucumbers in the last lesson. Although our cucumbers were not the biggest one, we are still grateful for having cucumbers! As Du Fu said, though the cucumber is not costly, the water celery and duckweed are equally treasured (黄瓜未足貴，芹藻亦自珍) ,even the most ordinary things have their value; contentment brings happiness! We shared our cucumbers together immediately! Yum!



OH NO! Our kale!



After a weekend, we found that there were some seem like cabbage aphid eggs which sticked on our kale! We flushed it away with water and removed it completely with scissors.

Cabbage aphid(菜蚜), an infamous pest, relentlessly attacks cruciferous vegetables, siphoning sap, thereby inducing stunted growth, leaf curling, and possibly disseminating deleterious viral infections.

Few days later, there were so many crocidolomia pavonana(大菜螟) eating our kales! After feeding on the remaining epidermis of the leaves, they weave a thin net, hide inside, and feed through the holes in the leaves. Their excrement then sticks to the net.



To begin with, we meticulously eliminate the predominantly devoured leaves, thereby safeguarding the vitality of adjacent healthy foliage from any adverse effects.

Subsequently, we detach every leaf one at a time to guarantee no remnants are left. Luckily, we identified the issue in time, preventing what could have been a serious mistake.



Crocidolomia pavonana

Solution

After asking our tuto, she taught us that we can use to the onion and chili peppers to make a natural insects repellent. We cut them into pieces and soaked for few days.





Our tutor reminded us that the ratio of the chili water and water should be 1 : 100. Otherwise it would be too spicy for the plants!



After spraying the insects repellen , the liquid would be absorbed and transmitted to the leafs.

Finally, insects would not approach our plants because of the chili water! Our dedication had finally borne fruit!

We are working hard to remove the white pith from the fruit. Look at how diligently we're working!



So many Snails!



After few rainy days, there were **some many snails** around our plants!! They severely damage plant leaves, buds, and fruits, and the wounds they create can **easily lead to plant diseases** such as soft rot.

Even the silvery slime they leave behind when they crawl can hinder photosynthesis in the leaves, and their excrement can **contaminate crops.**

Look, there's a yellow rainstorm warning on7/5 and 29/5!

表 1.2 暴雨警告信號

顏色	開始時間		終結時間	
	日 / 月	時	日 / 月	時
黃色	7 / 5	1322	7 / 5	1425
黃色	29 / 5	1625	29 / 5	1845

The giant African snail prefers to live in **damp environments**, hiding in cool, damp places during the day and emerging at night after rain. Our members used the shovel to remove the snails from our plants boxes.



Eww! They **stuck on the bamboo rack**! We put it back into the soil further away and let it **return to nature**.

Produce eco-enzymes!

Apply the knowledge our learned in class

This lesson, the tutor brought some oranges and bananas for us. After having these fruit, tutor taught us to make eco-enzymes for our plants! The main benefits of enzymes include promoting growth, improving soil, and enhancing resilience.





We tried to slice the orange peel thinly to get pieces of the outer skin, and cut the banana peel into thin strips. Look! We've divided the work and are working together to finish it.

Remember that we need to open the bottle caps periodically because gas is produced during fermentation. If the caps are not opened for an extended period, the pressure could cause the plastic bottles to burst.

As we learnt from F3 Biology lessons, we knew that enzymes are biological catalytic which can lower the activation energy of reaction. They were also reusable so we watered it once a week to promote our plants growth.



Last lesson



At the last lesson, our tutor brought some pictures of different devices and inserts. Tutor shared with us about an inflatable bird-repelling ballon called "Scared Eyes'.

She also shared some insects which damaged our plants such as fruit flies. They love the smell of fermented fruit so they often linger around fruits, peels, or pulp.



She brought some fruits and jellies for us to be the gifts of the last lesson! When our members had questions, she said she was welcome to ask her questions through Mr Lam!!

You can see the happiness from the smiles on our faces ! All of us were showing our cucumbers!!! YUM!



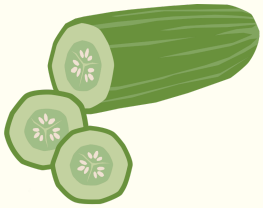
Our final results

Look! Here's are our cucumbers! We finally got three big cucumbers. We should use **clean gardening shears or a blade to cut the vine** about 1 to 2 centimeters above the stem.





Their happy smiles told us that the **cucumbers** we grew ourselves were **delicious!!**



Feeling

Taking part in this inter-house planting competition has been extremely rewarding. It brought me closer to nature and let me enjoy the pleasure of hands-on planting.

At first, I knew nothing about planting and felt confused. With teachers' guidance and teammates' help, I gradually picked up key skills. We sowed seeds, watched them grow green and lush, and even made organic enzyme fertilizer from orange and banana peels to feed our plants. This process taught me teamwork and the importance of patience for success.

The most unforgettable task was building a bamboo trellis for cucumbers. We worked together to measure, cut and tie bamboo poles firmly, cooperating closely to build a stable frame. We also made an automatic watering tool from waste plastic bottles. It waters plants when soil is dry and stops when moist enough, a clever eco-friendly creation.

Overall, I have mastered practical planting skills and become more patient and cooperative. I benefit greatly from this meaningful competition.

By treasurer 5E Cai wai

Feelings

Participating in this planting competition has benefited me a lot by helping me understand positive values and improve my planting skills.

At first, our house members were from different forms, so communication was difficult and our watering rota was not clear. This almost caused our plants to suffer from too much water. Later, we held brief discussions to create a rotating watering plan and shared spare time. This helped me communicate well across age groups and sense of respect for each others.

What I remember most was the outstanding diligence shown by everyone, even on windy or hot days. We checked the soil, pulled out weeds, and adjusted our care plans to help the plants grow steadily. Thanks to our teacher and members, I learned practical techniques such as planting correctly, monitoring soil moisture, and caring for plants consistently.

Looking back, the competition made me more responsible and considerate, and I gained plenty of hands-on planting skills from this meaningful experience.

By art director 3C Tam ka yi

Feelings

During this planting competition, we tried using old CDs to scare away birds, made our own chilli spray for pest control, and got our hands dirty by turning soil and applying fertilisers like bone meal and chicken manure. The steps sounded straightforward enough, but when I actually started doing them, I quickly realised how much I had taken for granted.

Hanging the CDs too high made them useless; too low and they didn't reflect enough light. The chilli spray was tricky to get right–too strong and it harmed the leaves, too weak and it did nothing. Even fertilising, which I thought was simply about burying it deep, turned out to be more nuanced; I nearly burned the roots. Each time my "I think so" was gently corrected by reality. And the real solutions often came from classmates who had practical experience–some had helped their grandparents in the garden, others had watched tutorials and tried things out themselves. Their hands-on know-how was far more flexible than my book-learnt theories.

That experience reminded me of the saying, "Everyone has their own area of expertise." Planting may look simple, but it involves deep knowledge of soil, weather, pests, and timing–far more than I could pick up from a quick read.

By sports captain 5D Zeng Zirui

Feelings

We have benefitted a lot from this inter-house planting competition. In addition to learning about the characteristics and planting habits of different plants, we have also strengthened our environmental protection awareness and learned about waste utilisation.

For example, once we wanted to make a waste utilisation environmentally friendly insecticide machine, that is, cut a lot of onions and chili peppers, then put them into a bottle, add water and shake them evenly. Many of them cut tears. That is the funniest part.We also learned some interesting insecticide skills.

It's a great honour to participate in this activity. I'm grateful to the school for giving us this opportunity to jump out of the box and learn knowledge other than books. I'm also grateful to the tutor for his patient teaching over the past few months, which has given us a valuable experience.

By vice house captain 5E Li King chuen

Feelings

Participating in this year's Inter-House Planting Competition has been an incredibly rewarding and eye-opening journey. With our busy school schedules, I wondered if we could actually nurture these living things.

However, as days turned into weeks, tending to our plants became the highlight of my daily routine. I am starting to look forward to the next lesson and the harvest. Witnessing that slow and steady growth taught me patience and care. These values are hard to grasp purely from textbooks.

The most memorable thing in this competition was the difficulty we face-repel pests. Before the teacher taught us the way to repel pests, we had already faced this problem... Many unknowns' pest egg was stayed under our kale's leaves. We had to check the leaves of our kale every morning to remove any pest eggs. This is a boring and cumbersome process, but luckily, we also build a sense of unity with our committee and take responsibility together. Let us become more in sync and run more smoothly.

Overall, this competition taught me a lot about planting skills and cooperation ability.If I have a chance to attend this competition next year, I think my answer will be yes.

By vice house captain 4C Huang Hiu Kwan

Feelings

This competition started in March and has been going on for two or three months now. I visit my plants every day and it seems like already a habit for me. Even the school staff jokingly say that I visit them every day, even when it rained, I still wanted to check on them.

Over the last few months, I've changed from refusing to touch the dirt because I was worried about getting my hands dirty, to slowly getting used to it and actually wanting to feel the wet soil. This kind of change is something I never would have guessed.

This inter-house planting competition transcended being a mere contest, imbueing the process with profound significance. Throughout the event, I gained deeper insights into plant biology, realizing that every species possesses distinct growth patterns and requirements. When the first cucumber emerged in our house, I finally awakened to the reality that plants are living beings.

Watering them daily without knowing when they will yield results requires patience. Yet, the moment you discover that the plant under your dedicated care has produced fruit, it brings an unspeakable sense of moving anticipation.

Not only have I gained a brand-new experience and perspective regarding plants, but I also want to take this opportunity to express my deepest gratitude to my teammates. For months, they took turns watering the plants, never missing a day, even during the holidays. Through this competition, I have discovered a completely new side to them. Their craftsmanship when making the bamboo racks, their bravery when removing pests, and their attentiveness when caring for the plants-I have witnessed and appreciated every single bit of it.

By house captain 5C Pang hei tung

Conclusion



Our heartfelt gratitude goes to all tutors for their guidance, the school staff for their silent help during the competition , and every schoolmate who actively participated. The planting competition may have paused, but we hope we can carry this passion for life and team spirit into our future studies and other activities. Let us look forward to our next competition as we continue to add vibrant colours to our school!


thank
you!