



## Layla & Olivia 2021 - subpod success with culinary plants

### Goals for the year

Layla and Olivia's goal for the year was to refurbish two of the ten old garden beds at the back of the school oval, to grow vegetables and herbs to use in the Home Economics Centre for cooking.

They started by adding mulch around the outside of the two beds to contain the grass and weeds. Next, subpods were added to improve the soil. Subpods are a below-ground worm farm that mimics conditions found in nature. They added food scraps for nitrogen, paper as a carbon source, special compost seed and composting worms. Worm castings are a rich food for soil and plants. Then it was planting time - using Bunnings seedlings and a collection of Woolworths discovery garden seeds.

### Biggest success or achievement

What they've achieved so far is:

- a teaching opportunity for the students about the importance of gardening and growing healthy foods and sustainability
- sustainable because it is grown on site - the school isn't using petrol to transport produce back from another source
- fresh, healthy, packaging-free produce
- time savings on shopping for ingredients
- financial savings for the Home Economics Centre.

The garden will continue to benefit the school as future students will be able to collect herbs and vegetables to use in cooking.

### Others involved

Layla and Olivia want to teach people about planting and harvesting so that they can do it themselves. The aim is to continue involving other students in the project. They have already organised for the school's environment club - Green Team - to help with the gardening. The subpods are easy to use, and junior school students are helping to prepare the food scraps by chopping them up. As the worms get bigger, there will be less need for this.

### Challenges

There have been no major challenges so far. The subpods are simple to use and they don't have to harvest worm wee because it goes straight into the soil through the holes on the sides.

### Next steps

Layla and Olivia want to get more students involved, expand the garden beyond the two beds, add more mulch and grow more herbs and vegetables.