



Ruby - Herbs for home ec.

What was your goal and what did you want to achieve?

I wanted to be able to make a school garden for the home economics classes to be able to use and incorporate with their cooking.

I spoke to my school Principal about my proposal for my YEC project and he was really supportive. We talked about what I might grow and he didn't want any fruit or veggies in case kids picked them, threw them or squashed them.

I settled on herbs and thought that they would be the way to go. I also considered the summer period and how herbs like spring onions and chives might suffer from dryness and lack of moisture.

I decided to go with something that would be more drought tolerant and prefer a warmer drier climate. I settled on growing rosemary, thyme, oregano and sage.

I reached out to a teacher who's going to help me organise a fundraiser, a casual clothes day. I designed a wallpaper for the laptops and made a poster to hang around school to spread awareness.

The idea is that kids can wear some green for the garden and they can bring in gold coin donations to help fund the garden.

Hopefully we'll be able to get the herbs in the garden before the summer holidays, where they'll hopefully start thriving and then when we come back to school the home economics classes will be able to use them in their cooking.

Who else did you work with?

Pretty much myself, but I did reach out to the school Principal to get permission and an area to work with.

And I got a teacher from the wellbeing team to help me with the fundraising and organisation of the casual clothes day.

What did you find challenging?

My main challenge was that I didn't really have many people to go to in the beginning, I was just doing it by myself.

Reaching out to people was kind of scary because it's my first time doing something like this. But I would say the more I did it and the more I just put myself out there and asked for help and talked to people, the more confidence I gained, and the more I got everything really going together.

I'm really excited to keep going on with this next year and hopefully the year after that, and so on.

How have you shared your work?

Not completely, but part of that will be on the casual clothes day. That's also raising awareness along with collecting the money.

What did you enjoy most?

I would say I loved the whole process really, especially towards the end when I really started getting more confidence and pushing myself to do more. That was definitely the part where I've got a lot more done.

Your advice to other students?

I would say even if you're scared, instead of stalling, you've just got to go out there, put yourself out there, ask for help and talk to people.

I know it can be scary but the more you do it the more confidence you'll gain and the better you'll feel about it all.

This case study was transcribed from an interview. These are Ruby's words and opinions.

