

POD-Wake Newsletter #1
Subscribe to this list



PHOTO OF THE MONTH: Preschool children run through the grand opening banner at the ribbon cutting for Raleigh Nursery School's new Outdoor Learning Environment, installed by volunteers from PNC Bank through their Grow up Great initiative. [Full story here](#)

Photo credit: Dorsey Tobias at PNC.

JANUARY 23, 2014

News from the Field

POD-Wake Year Two centers will receive their design package this month, having reviewed a draft of their Outdoor Learning Environment (OLE) site plans with the NLI team. Members of the NLI team, including NLI Director Robin Moore and Director of Programs Dr. Nilda Cosco, toured the POD-Wake Year Two Demonstration sites last week, met with directors and staff, and conducted an on-site design review. The Natural Learning Initiative team is looking forward to working with this great group of centers!



Wake Smart Start will offer a new CEU based training Series, the POD-Wake OLE Leadership Series for center directors. The first session, Fundraising for the OLE, will take place February 26 from 6:30 to 8:00. [Follow this link for more information.](#)



POD-Wake has two new Garden Trainers who you may see at your center or at one of our training sessions. We welcome Caroline Tilley Asher (left) and Mary Archer (right) to the POD-Wake Team!



Resources

[Dig IN!. Raleigh's annual community garden summit](#) will take place March 8, 2014. POD-Wake will be represented, so join in the fun and meet others in Raleigh who are growing gardens. Sponsored by Advocates for Health in Action (AHA)

Garden ABCs offers tips on [Growing Your Volunteer Community](#). Visit their website to see this and other ideas for building your Childcare Garden.

Do you have great photos of your kids outside in winter? Enter them in the [Be Out There Baby It's Cold Outside Photo Contest](#) for a chance to win \$100. Be creative - great winter photos don't have to have snow! Deadline: January 31

Outdoor activities in freezing weather offer opportunities to learn about the liquid vs. solid state of matter with a creative outcome. [Review these options](#) or see NLI's [Green Desk Post](#).

Recipe

Kale Chips

- 1 bunch kale
- 1 tablespoon olive oil
- 1 teaspoon salt

- Heat oven to 300 degrees. Line a baking sheet with parchment paper.

- Wash kale and dry well.
- With your hands, remove the thick stems from the kale and discard stems. Tear leaves into bite-sized pieces.
- Drizzle kale with olive oil and sprinkle with salt. Toss to coat. Arrange kale pieces in a single layer on the baking sheet.
- Bake 10 minutes, or until edges are slightly brown but not burnt.

Project Calendar

JANUARY

- 2nd Cohort designs delivered

JANUARY 29 - Interactive Session for 10 Wake County Childcare Centers

FEBRUARY

- Grant Action Planning with 2nd Cohort
- Indoor activities: fairy gardens & herb containers

FEBRUARY 26 - POD-Wake Childcare OLE Leadership Series: Fundraising for the OLE

MARCH

- Planting fruit trees, shrubs, and perennials
- Garden planning with children; art activities with seed catalogs

MARCH 8 - Dig IN! At Marbles Kids Museum

APRIL

- Garden installation, Phase One
- Newspaper pots and straw bale planting

APRIL 22 - Interactive Session for 10 Wake County Childcare Centers

APRIL 30 - POD-Wake Childcare OLE Leadership Series: Now We Grow It, How Do We Cook It

MAY

- Transplanting and summer garden planting

MAY 28 - POD-Wake Childcare OLE Leadership Series: Enhancing Cognitive Development in the OLE



Copyright © 2014 Natural Learning Initiative, All rights reserved.

Preventing Obesity by Design in Wake County is made possible by the support of the John Rex Endowment.

Please visit us at <http://naturalearning.org/content/podwake>

Our mailing address is:

Natural Learning Initiative

NC State University

Campus Box 7701

Raleigh, NC 27695

[Add us to your address book](#)



[unsubscribe from this list](#) [update subscription preferences](#)