



The Wyck Association

Preserving a National Historic Landmark House and Garden

For Immediate Release, Please

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Outdoor Education Programs For Children At **The Wyck Association in Germantown** **Natural Science, Nutrition, Seasonal Dynamics**

December 5, 2008, Phila., PA –Area children are discovering the farm within the city at Wyck, a National Historic Landmark house and garden located at 6026 Germantown Avenue in the Germantown section of Philadelphia. Over the past year, outdoor educational programming at Wyck has been steadily growing as Wyck has built ties with nearby schools and Head Start programs. The Wyck Outdoor Education Program features an emergent curriculum focusing on natural science, nutrition, and seasonal dynamics at Wyck’s 2.5-acre site. School children also participate in all aspects of the Wyck Home Farm, a large chemical-free production garden. *Registration is open now for the upcoming programming season.* Please contact Nicole Juday, Outdoor Education Coordinator at 215-848-1690 or njuday@wyck.org.

Almost any school day you can peek through Wyck’s picket fence and see local students busily engaged in a variety of outdoor lessons, explorations and projects. Autumn has offered the students a chance to plant seeds and bulbs, identify trees and collect specimens. For many of these children Wyck is the hands-on relationship with nature that they would not otherwise have.

At the Home Farm, children participate in all aspects of the garden, from planting peas and radishes in March to planting garlic in November. They also gain skills and understanding of the importance of proper cultivation techniques, weeding, composting, and greenhouse growing. There is no designated “children’s garden” at Wyck, as we want children to feel they are participants in the hard work and concrete rewards of a real production garden that exists for the benefit of their own community.

Produce from the Home Farm is sold at Wyck’s seasonal, on-site weekly farmers market. The produce is available to neighbors at below market prices and we accept vouchers from the federally funded Farmers Market Nutrition Program as well as food stamps. Produce is sold to area restaurants and at the Fair Food Farmstand at the Reading Terminal Market.

About Wyck:

Wyck tells the story of the Wistar-Haines family and the Germantown house where they lived for nearly three centuries. Wyck is filled with the objects they used, collected and saved, while thousands of manuscripts give voice to the family’s interests and simple daily lives. The sturdy stone house, remodeled by architect William Strickland in 1824, is the place that defined home and family identity for nine generations. Roses blooming in a 175-year old garden show the family’s deeply rooted love of horticulture. The family library and natural history collections demonstrate their love of learning. Simplicity of style reveals the family’s devotion to their Quaker faith and way of life. Wyck’s window on the past offers perspective on the present and future. Wyck is regularly open for tours and for educational programs.

For more information about Wyck and its Outdoor Education program, please contact Nicole Juday, Outdoor Education Coordinator at 215-848-1690 or njuday@wyck.org.

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