



## April showers bring May flowers. February plantings with the Vogt Cluster bloom in June.

*By John Brady, Vogt Recreation Center*

On a cloudy February 24th afternoon, the Vogt Cluster had a spring gardening lesson on planting Marigold and Zina flowers with Recreation Leader John Brady.



Dorsey, Disston, Roosevelt, and Vogt Recreation Center's After School Programs participated in learning about spring flower plantings. The children in the After School Programs had a half day for school report cards, and all the children met at the Vogt Recreation Center for a gardening lesson.

The children learned about proper soil conditions, moisture content, and temperature limits for seed germination.

The children were then instructed on how to fill empty egg cartons with soil, pat the soil down, make a little depression in the soil, add three seeds, cover lightly with more soil, gently water, then place the egg carton in a plastic bag and place in a warm location. The kids will check on their flowers once a week and add water if necessary, hoping to see seeds sprout in about two weeks, after which they'll place their plants in a sunny location.

Also after the seeds sprout, children will cut the smaller, weaker plants, so the stronger plants have more room to grow. They'll continue to keep plants in a sunny location, water, and place the thriving plants in larger containers as they grow.

Not only did all the children learn how to grow plants from seeds, they also had a wonderful time doing it.

A special shout out to the Parks & Recreation Leaders who helped out with the Vogt Cluster Project: Kristen Wisniewski, Dorsey Playground; Art Comas, Disston Recreation Center; Joseph Fricker, Roosevelt Playground; and John Brady, Vogt Recreation Center.

