

Hello. We are Casey and Daniel from TheWhoFarm. And this is our bus.



Today, we're going to talk about our adventures and about First Lady Michelle Obama's gardening project. At the end of the presentation, we'll ask you to write to the First Lady!

During the 2008 Presidential campaign, TheWhoFarm travelled across America on an upside-down school bus...



NEWS STAFF/TAMIKA MOORE

Casey Gustowarow, left, and Daniel Bowman Simon are driving around the country in an eye-catching bus, gathering signatures on a petition calling for the next president to plant an organic farm on the White House grounds.

Cross-country ride urges White House to add organic farm

By THOMAS SPENCER
News staff writer

Two former Peace Corps volunteers steered an odd yellow school bus topped with an organic garden into Birmingham Monday as part of a cross-country trip to encourage the next president to turn the White House lawn into an urban farm.

Daniel Bowman Simon, 28, was inspired to embark on the journey after hearing a speech from San Francisco restaurateur and sustainable farming advocate Alice Waters in which she described her vision for a food garden at every school and at the White House.

Simon recruited his Peace Corps compatriot Casey Gustowarow, 27, who was working on a Maryland farm, and procured an attention-getting bus — essentially two buses welded together, top-to-top — and outfitted it with a rooftop garden and retractable window boxes.

The eye-catching bus starts conversations, Simon said, allowing the two to spread their message and gather petitions urging the next president to find space on the White House's 17 acres for a farm that will be "a model for healthy, economical and sustainable living everywhere."

Gustowarow stands atop the White House Organic Farm Project bus, where he and his Peace Corps compatriot have planted an organic garden.



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San Francisco, CA
Golden Gate Park

We planted a vegetable garden on the roof, because we wanted to grow some of our own food.



We talked to everyone we met about our simple request for the new First Family...



New Orleans, LA
Crescent City Farmers Market

We, the people,
respectfully request that an
organic farm be planted on
the grounds of
the White House.



A recipe for success...

We recommended that the White House invite students to help grow the food at The White House as a fun, hands-on learning experience.



And we recommended that the White House share the harvest with a local food pantry.



We visited lots of schools because we wanted to make sure that kids were on board with our simple request. They sure were!



Escuela del Sol Montessori School
Albuquerque, New Mexico



Monte Del Sol Charter School
Santa Fe, New Mexico



H.G. Hill Middle School
Nashville, Tennessee

We also visited farms and gardens to meet people who were growing their own food and teaching others. Everyone thought it would be wonderful if the White House also started to grow food.



Birmingham, AL
Jones Valley Urban Farm



New Orleans, LA
ReGrowing Communities Work Event



Austin, TX
Boggy Creek Farm



Swoope, VA
Polyface Farm

We even got stuck and had to be towed once.

We ate watermelon while we waited!

And the tow truck driver was the nicest tow truck driver ever!



Along the way, we met some older people and historians who told us that our government used to encourage people to grow their own food.



We found out that sheep grazed on the White House grounds during World War I.

The sheep mowed the lawn and their wool was donated to the Red Cross.



WOOL GIVEN BY WILSONS.

**Clip from White House Flock to be
Auctioned for Red Cross.**

Lots of people asked us if we knew that
First Lady Eleanor Roosevelt had a “Victory Garden”
at the White House during World War II.



GARDEN FOR WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON, March 22 (U.P.)
—There will be a Victory Garden
this Summer on the White House
grounds.

New York Times, 1943

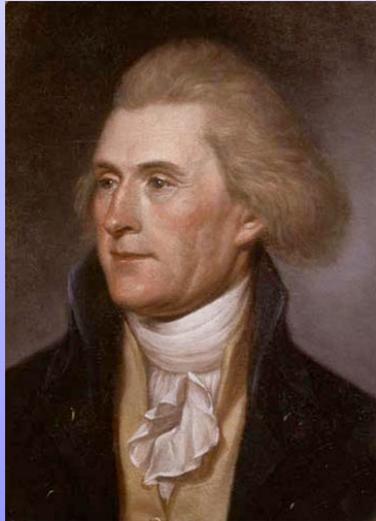


U.S. Government Printing Office
Office of War Information, 1943

I never forget that I live in a house owned by all the American people and that I have been given their trust. -Franklin D. Roosevelt, Fireside Chat 1938

We also visited our Founding Father Thomas Jefferson's famous home, Monticello.

He was not only a great President, but a great farmer too. He grew nearly 300 kinds of vegetables in his garden.



Cultivators of the earth are the most valuable citizens. They are the most vigorous, the most independent, the most virtuous, and they are tied to their country and wedded to its liberty and interests by the most lasting bonds.

-Thomas Jefferson, 1785

We were in the news a lot -- TV, Newspaper, Radio, and the Internet.

Plant an organic garden on the White House Lawn - Boing Boing

http://www.boingboing.net/2008/11/24/plant-an-organic-gar.html

We Define: **Server Virtualization**

DT Now Is The Time For All Good
By Steve Kovsky - Could virtualizing your company's servers actually be part of your patriotic duty? It may seem a little far-fetched at first glance, but let's take a deeper look at national

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Plant an organic garden on the White House Lawn
POSTED BY MARK FRAUENFELDER, NOVEMBER 24, 2008 2:22 PM | PERMALINK



I met a couple of young guys who are traveling the country in the Topsy Turvy bus to promote the idea of an organic garden on the White House Lawn.

Visit us online at smdp.com THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 18, 2008 Volume 7 Issue 265

Santa Monica Daily Press
HOME COOKING SEE PAGE 7 Since 2001: A news odyssey THE SPARE CHANGE ISSUE



TAKING IT WITH YOU: The WhoFarmMobile, which features a garden on its roof, visits the Farmers' Market on the corner of Arizona and Second streets on Wednesday. The creators of the bus hope to encourage the new president to plant an organic garden on the lawn of the White House.

Edible bus rolls to market

BY CHRISTINA WALKER
Special to the Daily Press

ARIZONA AVE While most voters are concerned about sexual education in our schools, the slumping economy, and the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan, two men are focusing on an issue that hasn't gotten a lot of play in this year's election coverage — organic gardening.

Daniel Bowman Simon and Casey Gustowarow are on a mission to plant a self-sustaining organic garden on the White House lawn for the future president. The two men began their trip on Aug. 4, driving all the way from New York to California. On Wednesday they arrived at the Farmers' Market at Arizona and Second streets to collect signatures for their petition called the White House Organic Farming Project.

"Our primary goal is to get people excited about our petition," Simon said. "We need a leader who leads by example. We need a leader who eats the right breakfast."

The bus, called the WhoFarmMobile, is actually made up of two mini-school buses, one resting upside down on top of the other. One school bus is fully functional and serves as a home on the road for Simon and Gustowarow. The other serves as a plot to plant, becoming an edible roof. The bus is an example of the two men's commitment to an agriculturally, self-sustainable lifestyle.

The two advocates came to Santa Monica after various sources told them they could find a lot of support for their petition in the area. So far the two have collected 1,500 signatures for their petition.

Simon and Gustowarow want to see their goal come to fruition for a variety of reasons. Besides giving the president and the first family healthy, nourishing food to eat each day, they believe it would set an example for all Americans to be more self-sustaining and would have an impact on international relations as well.

"This is a change that we can make that symbolic and simple and that would have a domino effect," Gustowarow said.

Those born after World War II may not remember that the White House has a history of growing not just flowers, but food as well. Simon and Gustowarow pointed out that Eleanor Roosevelt inspired the nation

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The Washington Post

SMART LIVING

On a Mission

Sustainable Food | Meet two friends who've traveled the country collecting signatures in an effort to persuade President-Elect Obama to start a garden -- on the White House lawn.



THE WALL STREET JOURNAL.

Inauguration Day >

Advocates Push Pet Causes to Obamas

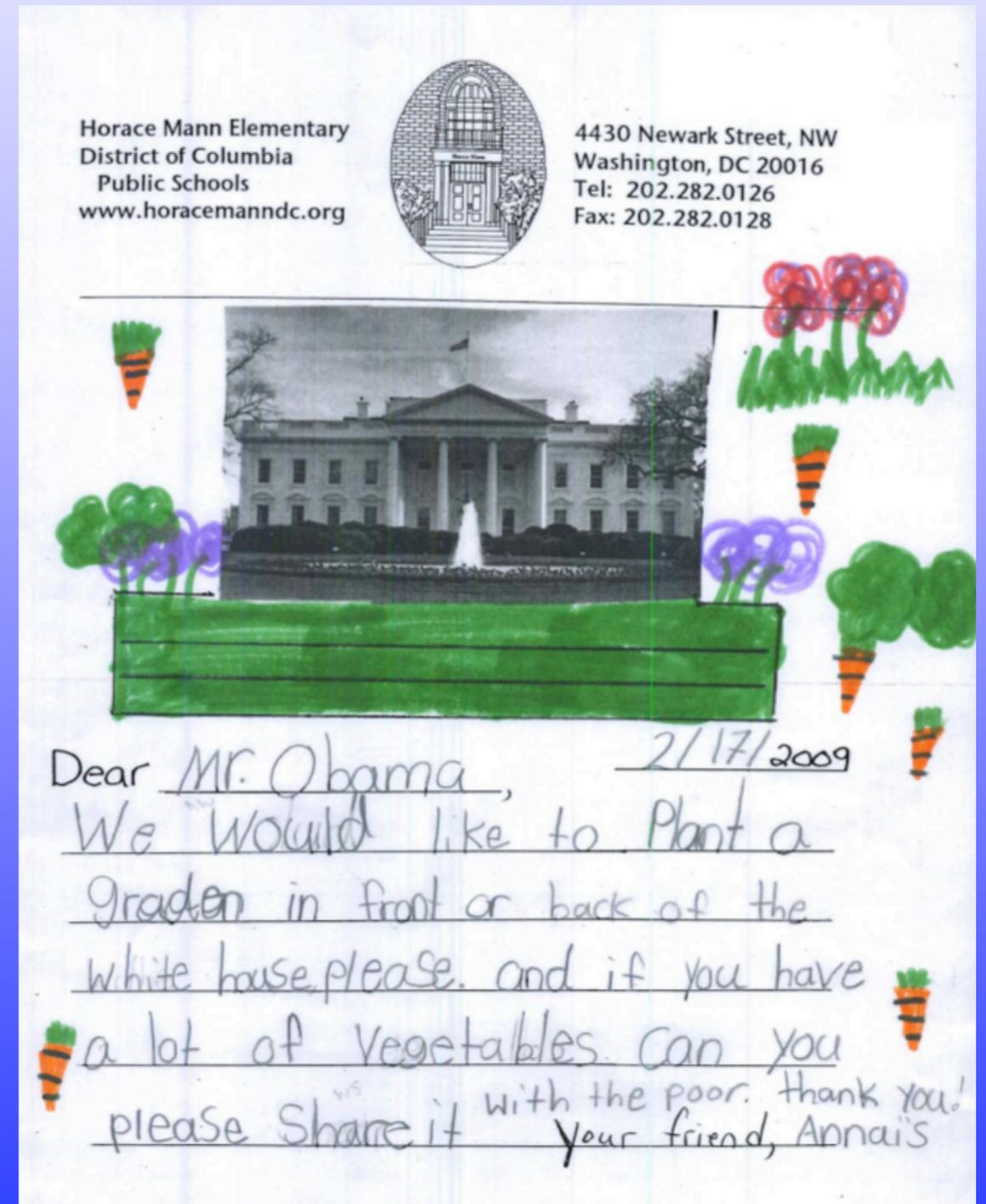
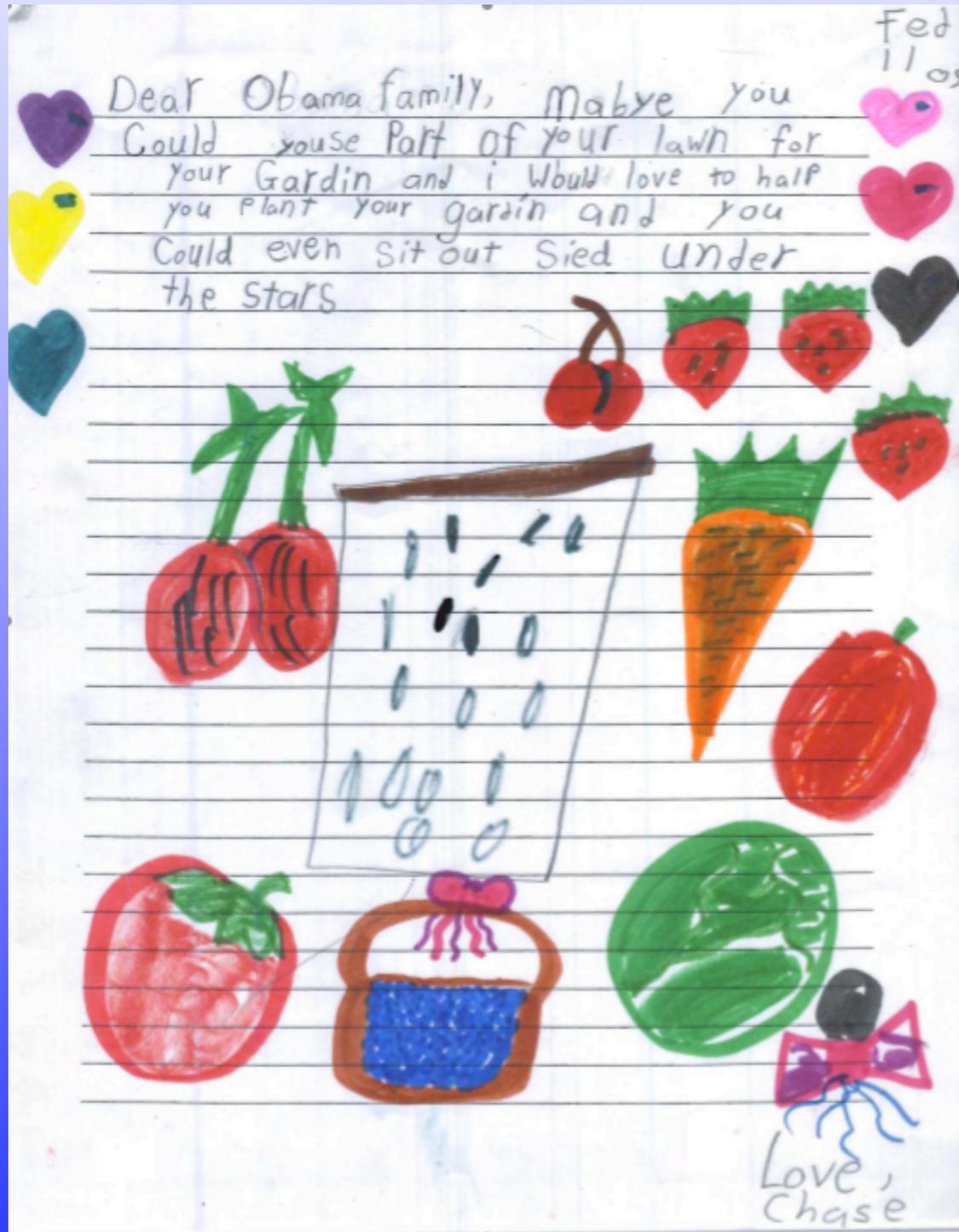
Advocates of everything from organic farms to backyard clotheslines are hoping the new first family will give their causes a home at the White House.



After Barack Obama won the election, TheWhoFarm went to Washington to keep spreading the word.



We visited more schools, and some students even wrote letters to the Obama family.



On March 20, 2009, First Lady Michelle Obama broke ground on the White House Kitchen Garden.



She invited kids from Bancroft Elementary School to help out. They ate apples and cookies in the shape of a shovel.

President Obama was busy with meetings, but he watched proudly from inside the White House.

The next day, Mrs. Obama's photo was on the cover of The New York Times, and the story was reported all over the world. She told a reporter that everyone in the family would help in the garden.



A few weeks later, the Bancroft students came back to help plant the White House Kitchen Garden.

They planted vegetables with Mrs. Obama and White House Chef Sam Kass, including lettuce, spinach, onions, snap peas, and carrots. They also planted herbs such as mint, parsley, oregano, and basil, and even some blueberry and raspberry bushes!

And, they planted some of Thomas Jefferson's favorite vegetables in his honor, including Arrow Peas, Prickly-seeded Spinach, Tennis Ball Lettuce, Brown Dutch Lettuce, and Savoy Red Choux di Milan Cabbage.

Mrs. Obama told the students that when she went to Europe, all the world leaders asked about the White House Kitchen Garden.



**The First Lady likes to visit people who have visited her at the White House.
On May 29, she visited Bancroft Elementary School.**



She listened to four student presentations about food and gardening. She told them that her own mother, (Sasha and Malia's grandmother,) remembered the vegetable garden she had growing up. She told them how important it is to have healthier, tastier food served at schools. She told them what a great model Bancroft is setting for kids nationwide. And she thanked them for all their hard work and dedication.

Then she helped the students plant tomatoes and peppers in their garden.

By June, the White House Kitchen Garden was ready for a big harvest party. The Bancroft kids once again returned to the White House to harvest and picnic.



The First Lady and the students worked together to harvest 73 pounds of lettuce and 12 pounds of peas.

Mrs. Obama spoke to the students, saying, “The planting of this garden was one of the first things I wanted to do as First Lady here at the White House...And with the help of you guys, you helped to make this dream a reality...Can you imagine how thriving that garden is, just how much food grew from a few little seeds and some plantings? So this was a big dream of mine for a while, and it's been so much fun working with you all.”

Mrs. Obama also told the students that the food from the garden is not just feeding the White House. The harvest is being shared with Miriam's Kitchen, a nearby soup kitchen.



There is also a new beehive at The White House. The bees help pollinate the garden and produce honey for the White House and for Miriam's Kitchen.

**There is also a new beehive at The White House.
The bees help pollinate the garden and produce
honey for the White House and for Miriam's Kitchen.**



After the harvest, the First Lady, White House Chefs, and Bancroft students prepared a healthy meal with fresh ingredients from the garden.



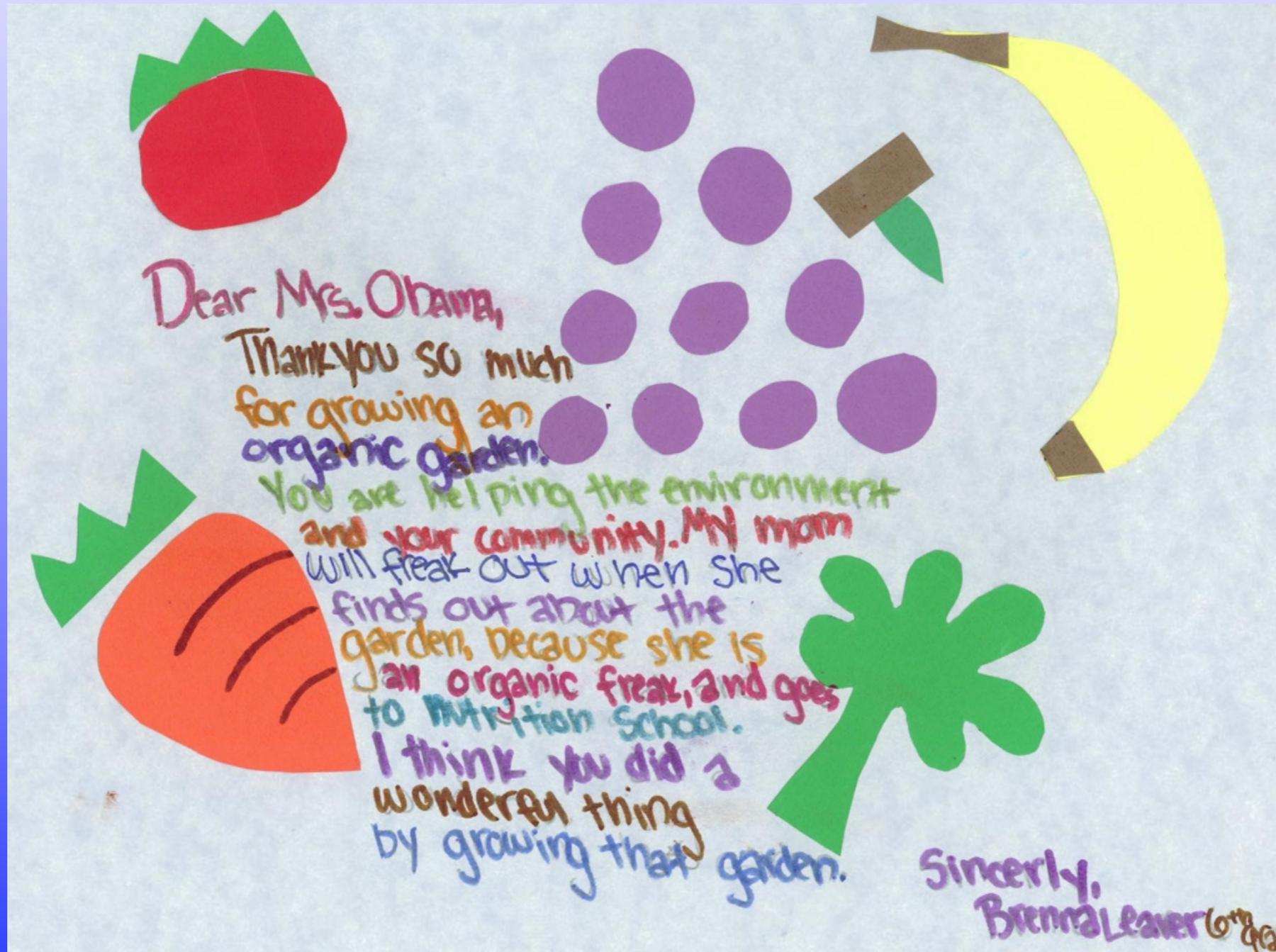
Here is one recipe from the meal:

White House Kitchen Garden Salad

One head of lettuce, 2 carrots, half a cucumber, 1/3 cup vegetable oil (olive or canola), 1/4 vinegar (red wine, balsamic, or lemon juice), 1 tsp honey, 1 tsp mustard (optional), Salt and pepper to taste

Wash and chop lettuce and place in a small bowl. Peel and cut carrots and cucumber into bite-size pieces. In a small bowl, place vinegar, honey, mustard, salt, and pepper. Using a whisk, mix vinegar mixture while slowly pouring oil into a bowl. Alternatively, combine all ingredients in a leak-proof container and shake vigorously. Add dressing just before serving.

Now is our chance to thank Mrs. Obama for leading with such a wonderful example.



Please take a few minutes to write to Mrs. Obama to thank her for her efforts.

Mrs. Obama asked the Bancroft students, “Why do you think it's important for us to plant this garden?” She also asked them, “Why do you think fruits and vegetables are important to health?”

If you like, you can let Mrs. Obama know your answers to those questions.



Mention whatever it is about her garden project that delights you most.

You might also like to:

- Draw a picture or write a poem.
- Talk about your favorite vegetable or share your favorite recipe.
- Tell her about your own garden, if you have one (at school or at home).
- Give her advice on keeping Bo out of the garden.
- Invite her to come visit your garden to dig in the dirt and taste your delicious vegetables!
- Talk about your hopes that more healthy food be grown and available in your neighborhood and across America and around the world!



We will highlight some of your letters on our website and publish them in a book.

And of course we will deliver all of the correspondence to Mrs. Obama, and make sure that she reads as many as she possibly can!*

Please sign your letter with your first name and your age, and if you are under 18, please make sure to have your parent or guardian sign the permission form.

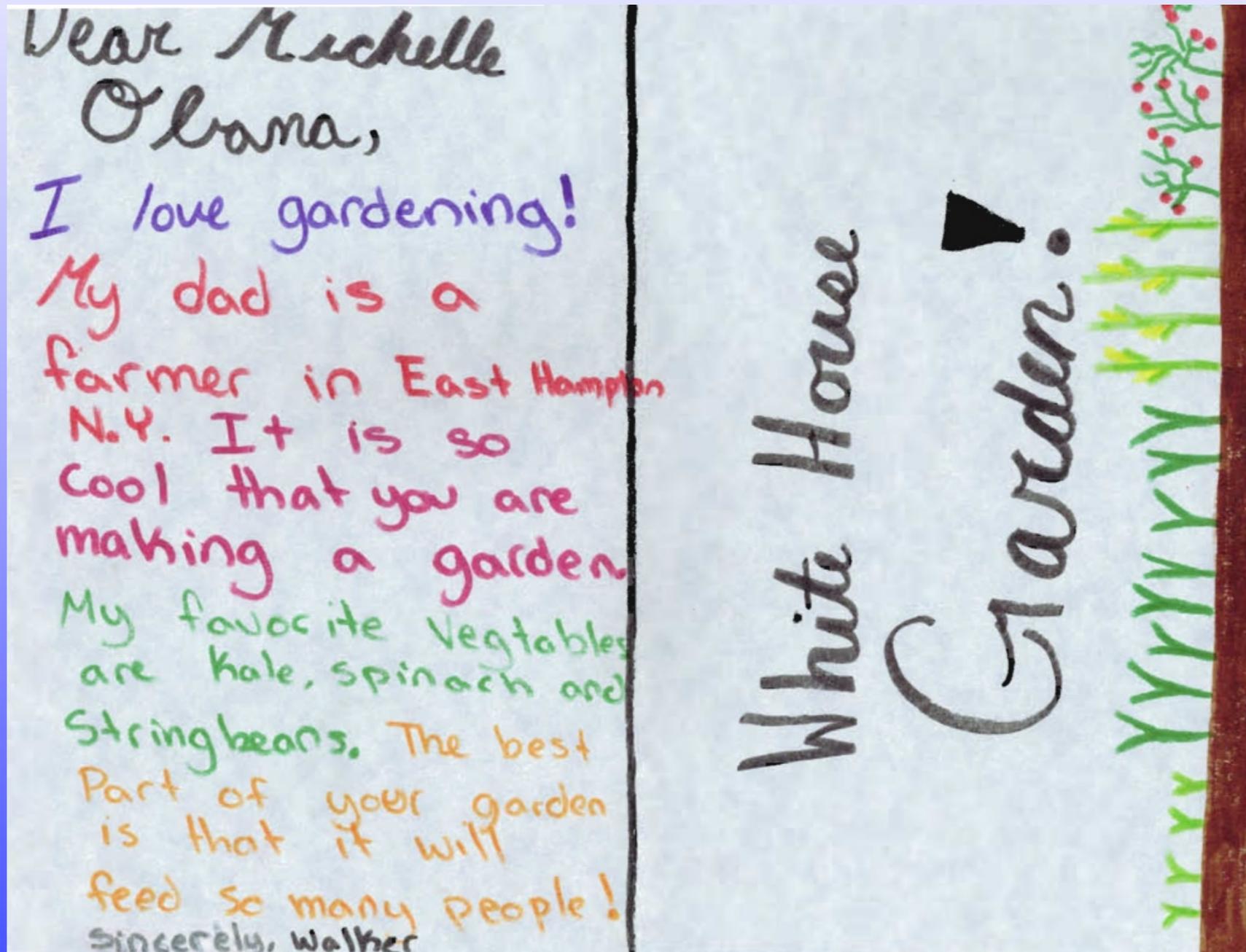
Please mail your letters to TheWhoFarm, 282 Elm St, W. Hempstead, NY 11552.**

*If you want to hear back from Mrs. Obama, please make sure you put the full address of your school on the back of the letter.

**Please do not send your letters directly to The White House.

TheWhoFarm.org/thanks

Thank You!



For more information on the White House Kitchen Garden, please visit <http://www.TheWhoFarm.org/faq>

Any questions or comments? Please email thanks@TheWhoFarm.org

TheWhoFarm.org/thanks

Permission slip.



Dear educators, students, parents, and guardians,

The TheWhoFarm is collecting thank you notes to First Lady Michelle Obama to thank her for starting the White House Kitchen Garden. We hope that you will send not only letters, but also poems, pictures or illustrations that show your support for this important initiative! We will deliver these letters to Mrs. Obama. And ultimately, we hope that this collection of submissions will be published in a book, for the whole world to see!

In order to use your submission, we need you (or your parents, if you are under the age of 18) to please sign below to show that you agree to let us to use and publish your name and submission in our book, and any marketing and promotional materials related to the book.

For more information see <http://www.TheWhoFarm.org/faq> and <http://www.TheWhoFarm.org/thanks>.
If you have questions or comments, email thanks@TheWhoFarm.org

Thanks again for your participation,
Daniel + Casey
TheWhoFarm

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I agree that TheWhoFarm, Daniel Bowman Simon, and Casey Gustowarow can use and publish my submission in TheWhoFarm's book of thanks to Mrs. Obama, and use in any marketing and promotional materials related to the book.

Name: _____

(optional: I do not want my name to be published in the book, check here:)

I am the (circle one): father / mother / guardian of _____, and I consent to the foregoing on his / her behalf.

Signature:

Print Name:

Date:

Email or other contact info (optional):

Please mail your this slip and your submissions (either individually or as a group) to TheWhoFarm, 282 Elm St, W. Hempstead, NY 11552.