

The Colorado Springs School  
21 Broadmoor Avenue  
Colorado Springs, CO 80906  
(719) 475-9747



## NEWS

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### **VENETUCCI FARM HOSTS STUDENTS FROM THE COLORADO SPRINGS SCHOOL FOR SERVICE AND LEARNING PROJECTS**

**Colorado Springs, Colo.** – Venetucci Farm, preserved in perpetuity through the efforts of the Pikes Peak Community Foundation (PPCF), regularly holds tours and programs for schools, and, this month, The Colorado Springs School has had several classes attend field trips to the local farm. Students from The Colorado Springs School have been and will be visiting the Venetucci Farm -- the only working farm in El Paso County -- to gain a better understanding of farming, sustainable agriculture, and other concepts.

"For over fifty years, the Venetucci family opened their Farm to the community. Now it's our turn to carry on the their legacy of generosity by helping kids and their families enjoy the excitement of the pumpkin harvest and learn about the importance of local, healthy food," said Michael Hannigan, Executive Director of the Pikes Peak Community Foundation.

"During our first field trip to Venetucci Farm, the [first grade] children saw the beginning step of composting: the worm farm," said Wanda Lepillez, first grade teacher at CSS. "They enjoyed the hands-on experience of digging for worms and observing them."

David Rudin, the Educational Director at Venetucci Farm, showed the students around the farm and how to sift through compost material. The kids also fed vegetable greens to the chickens and pigs. The experience complemented the curriculum in the classroom, where the kids are writing and drawing in Nature Journals and, along with the second graders, helped plant flower bulbs in front of the Early Childhood Center and Children's Academic Center buildings on The Colorado Springs School campus. The class is also looking forward to their **Wednesday, October 1** trip back to Venetucci Farm, which will focus on "Pumpkinology" – the path from seed to pumpkin.

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**Thursday, October 2**, will mark the fourth year that 6<sup>th</sup> graders from CSS will be partnering with the local farm for a service learning experience, and, this year, 33 kids will be working with planting garlic, harvesting potatoes, sowing garden beds in a greenhouse, and bringing in dry beans. In the past few years, they have also helped harvest pumpkins for the famous giveaway to children in the Colorado Springs area, as well as cleaning them up when the season is over. In exchange for the work, Venetucci Farm will give the class a tour of the farm, including their vegetables (fruiting, leafy, onion, cole, and root crops, as well as herbs), methods of farming, and animals (chickens, pigs, and draft horse team). Venetucci Farm also educates visitors on the importance of safe, sustainable agricultural practices in order to give one and all an appreciation for organically and locally grown foods.

The sixth grade science classes have been learning more about the garlic plant (in the allium family- related to the onion and leak). The service learning experiences are planned for every class to give back to the community while learning facts and subjects not usually taught in the classroom.

Partnering with the community is a vital part of a student's experience at CSS and this begins as early as Children's School (PreK – 5<sup>th</sup> grade). Younger students participate in community service through activities such as food, clothing and book drives, as well as recycling programs and visiting senior friends at a nearby retirement community. The seventh grade helps out a local elementary school, while eighth graders volunteer with the Rocky Mountain Field Institute building trails at Garden of the Gods. Upper School (9 –12<sup>th</sup> grade) students also volunteer with Venetucci Farms, have assisted with variety of trail building services throughout the community, and encourage students to take on individual volunteer opportunities through the National Honor Society.

**Television and photography access can be arranged with advance notice** by contacting Jessica L. James, Director of Communications at The Colorado Springs School at (719)434-3506.

### **About The Colorado Springs School (CSS)**

CSS offers an experiential educational curriculum for Pre-Kindergarten – 12<sup>th</sup> graders. Through superior academics and mentoring, The Colorado Springs School prepares students to think

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independently and to meet the needs of a dynamic world with leadership, ingenuity, problem-solving skills, and personal integrity.

For more information about The Colorado Springs School, visit [www.css.org](http://www.css.org) or call (719) 475-9747.

### **About The Venetucci Farm**

The Venetucci Farm, preserved in perpetuity through the efforts of [The Pikes Peak Community Foundation](http://www.ppcf.org) (PPCF), remains a legacy to the spirit and generosity of its founders, Nick and Bambi Venetucci. Established in 1936, the farm gained recognition for giving away literally millions of homegrown pumpkins to school-aged children throughout Colorado Springs. PPCF aspires to uphold this legacy by offering educational experiences in agriculture, including tours, service learning opportunities and classes. The farm will continue the wonderful pumpkin tradition started by Nick over 50 years ago.

For more information about The Venetucci Farm, visit [www.venetuccifarm.org](http://www.venetuccifarm.org).

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