Roots and Fruits

the founding and evolution of a sustainable school
Our Roots
Masonic Lodge

- Founded in 1990 as an alternative to public school
- Provisional Charter for grades K – 6
- Extension of Wells experience
- Masonic Lodge
Moved to Wells Campus

- Only autonomous independent school on a NYS college campus
- Absolute Charter by NYS Board of Regents
- Extended openings to Pre-K through 8th grade
- Typical annual enrollment of 20-25 students, pulling from Auburn, Union Springs, Southern Cayuga, Lansing, and Ithaca
EQUALITY
ECONOMY
ECOLOGY
EDUCATION
ETHOS
An Idea Rooted in the Past
Childhood

- Need for economy
- Stewards of the land
- Gender equality
- Service to community
- Education a priority
- Small is sustainable
Back to the Earth

- Organic
- Grow your own
- Thrift
- Function over form
- CREATIVITY
Progressive Education

Progressive Era – Present

- Late 1800s
- John Dewey
- Bolts Corners School

Circa 1930
Principles of Progressive Education

**Common Goals**
- Individualized and developmentally appropriate
- Hands-on and interdisciplinary
- Global, multi-cultural perspective
  - Egalitarian model
  - Community based
- Educating the whole child

**Peachtown Specifically**
- Multi age classrooms
- Knowledge based instruction
- Teaching self reliance
- Intrinsic motivation
  - Creativity
- Civic responsibility
EDUCATION
• Progressive Model
• Socratic
• Small
• Learning for life

ETHOS
• Value based
• Diverse
• Home like

EQUALITY
• Egalitarian, horizontal structure
• Scholarship
• Everyone participates as fully as they are able

ECONOMY

ECOLOGY
Alyssa

Family values – farming, creativity, education

Wells College Education Program

Interest in alternative education and a common sense approach to life long learning
Economy

- Great location
- Hands on and project based
- Reusable classroom materials
- Repurposed or donated basics
- Chores
- Four day school week
4 Day School Week

- Beginning in 2008
- Monday – Thursday
- 8:45 AM -4:15 PM

Balances the Budget

- Busing
- Heat
- Electricity

Balances Life

- Time to plan
- Time to rest
- Time to travel
- Time with family
Ecology
**Average American Waste**

EPA: Municipal Solid Waste Generation, Recycling, and Disposal, 2010

**2010:** The average American produced **4.43** lbs of trash per day and recycled or composted **1.51** lbs

**1960:** The average American produced **2.68** lbs per day

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*The Zero-Waste Lifestyle, Korst*
9 REASONS TO REFUSE SINGLE-USE PLASTIC

1. Made from fossil fuels
2. Huge carbon footprint
3. Will still be here in hundreds of years
4. Only a tiny percentage is recycled
5. Leaches toxins into food & drink
6. Causes hormone disruption & cancers
7. Pollutes our oceans
8. Kills marine animals and birds
9. Enters our food chain

LESS PLASTIC.
WWW.LESSPLASTIC.CO.UK
Our Ecological Past

- Re-use and recycling by teachers
  - Paper
  - Cardboard
  - Plastic/metal/glass co-mingle
- Lunches on a carry-in/carry-out policy
- Trash removal service
- Composting by teachers
Always Improving

- Center for Sustainability and the Environment
  - Co-mingle recycling through Wells College
    - Paper, cardboard, glass, metal
  - Plastic film and tissues by teachers
  - Landfill what’s left in coordination with Wells College
- Grant funded compost upgrades, now run by students
Before and After
Current Goal: ZERO WASTE

What is Zero Waste?

• Reduce
• Reuse
• Recycle
• Rot
• Relay/Recruit/Recommend!!!
More Zero Waste Inspiration

Zero Waste Town
Bea Johnson Zero Waste Home
Going Zero Waste Beginner Tips
Zero Waste School Lunch - Japan