

Pumpkinfest Thanks GSB Third Graders for Giving Atlantic Giant Pumpkin Plantlets Their Start

The Great Salt Bay School third graders took a field trip to Pinkham's Plantation on May 9 to learn about growing pumpkins—from sanding and soaking the seeds, to amending the soil to ensure maximum growth—while helping to get the seeds and pots ready for this Sunday's Atlantic Giant Pumpkin Plant Giveaway organized by Damariscotta Pumpkinfest & Regatta.

Four “stations” were set up for the children to learn various tasks associated with seed planting and plant maintenance for maximum growth. They sanded the giant seeds, visited the compost pile, and filled pots in which the seeds were planted, all the while learning about growing pumpkins. They learned about material that is used to make compost and the value of earthworms to a healthy garden, and told stories of growing their own pumpkins in prior years. When asked who would be volunteer growers again this year, many hands went up.

You can adopt one of the seedlings and grow your own giant pumpkin. Come to Pinkham's Plantation, 431 Biscay Road in Damariscotta on Sunday, May 19 starting at 9:00 a.m. and pick up a free pumpkin plantlet at the Atlantic Giant Pumpkin Plant Giveaway. Bring your own five-gallon container to get free super-enriched compost to give your seedling a healthy start.

Pumpkins grown from these plants will become the granddaddies of the pumpkin patch, and are featured during Pumpkinfest as pumpkin boats in the regatta, ammunition in the hurl/catapult/drop, and turned into works of art and displayed on Main Street, Damariscotta/Newcastle during October.

Pumpkinfest & Regatta is a 501(C)(3) organization whose mission is to promote education to citizens of all ages regarding the specific agricultural science required to grow giant pumpkins, and to provide local non-profit organizations with opportunities for dissemination of information on their activities and fundraising. For more information, visit www.damariscottapumpkinfest.com or follow us at www.facebook.com/damariscottapumpkinfest.com, or twitter, www.twitter.com/squashbuckler. Pumpkinfest is pleased to again have *Down East Magazine* as the official magazine sponsor for the festival.

PHOTO FOLLOWS: Buzz Pinkham talks dirt with GSB Third Graders

