

The Garden School Foundation (www.gardenschoolfoundation.org)

Los Angeles 2017

In the late 60s, early 70s, I studied early child development and pedagogy. Then I went to use my “skills” and teach. Very quickly I was disgusted by how political, how un-nurturing so-called education is and so I ran away.

Had someone taken me to The Garden School Foundation (or had I had the guts to try to be so innovative myself) I might have stayed.



So you cross this ghastly mass of asphalt with the sun beating down and the heat of the ground beating up behind 24th Street Elementary School and then suddenly you are in paradise! Luscious trees, beds of plants and herbs, cozy hideaway corners, shady nooks, fruit and flowers everywhere and you can hardly



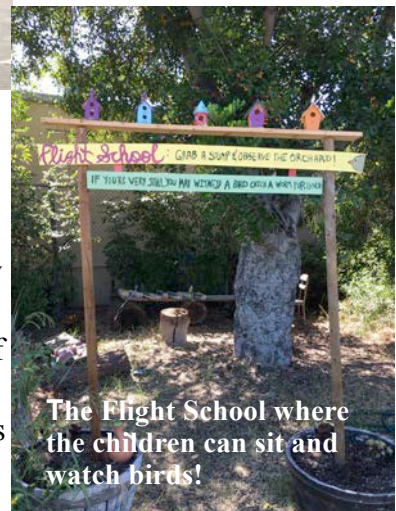
believe your eyes.

Children are dashing around and then they all sit down together (rare in USA) to eat --- wait for it --- kale salad (among other things)!!!!



Scary Scarecrow?

These are children who are in a situation where they have very little and will never have many opportunities. They have hardly ever been in the natural world and normally will never go. They live in what is called a Food Desert, a large section of LA where people are too poor to be able to afford fresh food and so none is available.



The Flight School where the children can sit and watch birds!

The 10 Freeway was built, the neighbourhood was abandoned and the school sunk into ruins. The parents got together and demanded the school be re-instated and they won. A large budget was ear-marked to re-asphalt the area behind the school but the parents requested a garden instead. Unfortunately the budget was not given to the development of the garden..... This was all in 2005.

The Garden School Foundation (www.gardenschoolfoundation.org)



Now about 2,500 children learn everything from the seed to table giving them tools for life that can't be learnt elsewhere. Even the summer camp is now 2 weeks!!! All I can say is that if you EVER go to LA, make a visit to The Garden School Foundation a MUST. Be ready, however, you will be requested to try the herbs as you wander around and lunch --- made by the children!

Kale salad anyone?

