

## Fourth Week of January

Get Local @ School Product of the Month = Apples

### What's Growing?



Winter is a great time to encourage your students to be garden investigators. What signs of animal or insect life can they see in the garden? Do they spot any tracks? What do they imagine animals are doing in the garden this time of year? Use the winter snow and the cold weather to discuss animal habitat and uncover action happening in the garden during winter months. Come back inside to the warmth of the classroom and engage students in making a big pot of delicious soup.

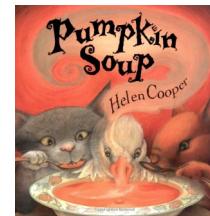
### Activities

Visit [www.growing-minds.org](http://www.growing-minds.org) for more ways to connect Farm to School with curriculum:

- ◆ Ask students to brainstorm words they would use to describe a winter garden. Using the words, lead the students in writing a class poem.
- ◆ Make a garden birdfeeder. There are lots of easy designs online, or simply have students sprinkle seed on a rock where students can observe. Have them make a log of what they see visiting and signs such as tracks, seed shells, or disappearing seeds.
- ◆ Go out to the garden and ask students to identify shapes. Keep a log of the shapes. Come back into the classroom and make a graph of the shapes they found. Which shape was most prominent?

### Farm to School Book of the Week

*Pumpkin Soup* by Helen Cooper



Three friends make soup the same way every day. One morning, the Duck wants to change his job and stir

the soup, but the others think he'll do a terrible job. After a squabble, he leaves the cabin in a huff. The cat and the squirrel look for the duck high and low. When they find him, they invite the duck back and make a delicious pot of soup by sharing all of the jobs of soup making.

### Journal Topics

Encourage your students to write on one of the following journal topics:

- ◆ Write a recipe for your own soup. Include ingredients and amounts, steps, and an illustration of the finished soup. What is the title of your soup? Pizza Soup? Snowman Soup? Dog Soup?
- ◆ After reading *Pumpkin Soup*, write a story about cooking soup with your friends. What job would you want? What soup adventure would you have?
- ◆ Imagine you are a bird living outdoors in a garden during the winter. What food would you look for? Where would you find it?

### Get Local recipe:

#### Apple Squash Soup

- 1 medium local butternut squash
- 2 apples, cored and chopped
- 6 cups vegetable broth
- 1 medium onion, chopped
- 1 tablespoon curry powder (optional)
- 1 teaspoon cinnamon

#### Steps

1. Peel and chop butternut squash into small pieces.

2. Place butternut squash, vegetable broth, onion, curry powder, apple, and cinnamon in a crock pot.
3. Set the crock pot on high and cook for 1-2 hours.
4. Use an immersion blender to puree the soup.
5. Enjoy!

