

# TATERS AT TIOGUE

## Coventry elementary students get involved in science project

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COVENTRY— In part of the Taterthon Project begun at Scituate High School, third grade students at Tiogue Elementary unearthed their grown potatoes and presented their scientific notebooks during class on Thursday.

Taterthon is an part of an effort by Scituate High School students to encourage the consumption of locally grown foods to eliminate the impact of emissions in the environment. Foods that are shipped across the country result in emissions from vehicles and this project is a way to save energy and reduce carbon dioxide that contributes to climate change.

During the end of their second grade year, students at Tiogue were given a potato seedling to grow on their own during the summer months. They were required to keep a log of their potato growth that will eventually be submitted to Scituate High School to be entered for awards in several categories.

The school whose students grow the most potatoes will receive a prize. The dates for the award ceremony have not yet been set, Science Teacher at Scituate High School and organizer of Taterthon Shannon Donovan said.

Tiogue Elementary Science Teacher



Submitted photo

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Tiogue Elementary School third-grader Johnny Bigden digs up potatoes in class on Thursday alongside Teacher Dr. Donna Raptakis as part of the Taterthon, conducted in conjunction with Scituate High School.

# Tiogue students get hands dirty

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Dr. Donna Raptakis demonstrated the difference of the students' potatoes during class on Thursday, showing the size comparisons for potatoes grown in the ground as opposed to in a pot.

The harvest of the potatoes tied into the student's curriculum as well during the planting unit they completed in June. The project was focused on building the students' writing skills through their scientific notebooks, which also required drawings or pictures during the potato's growth.

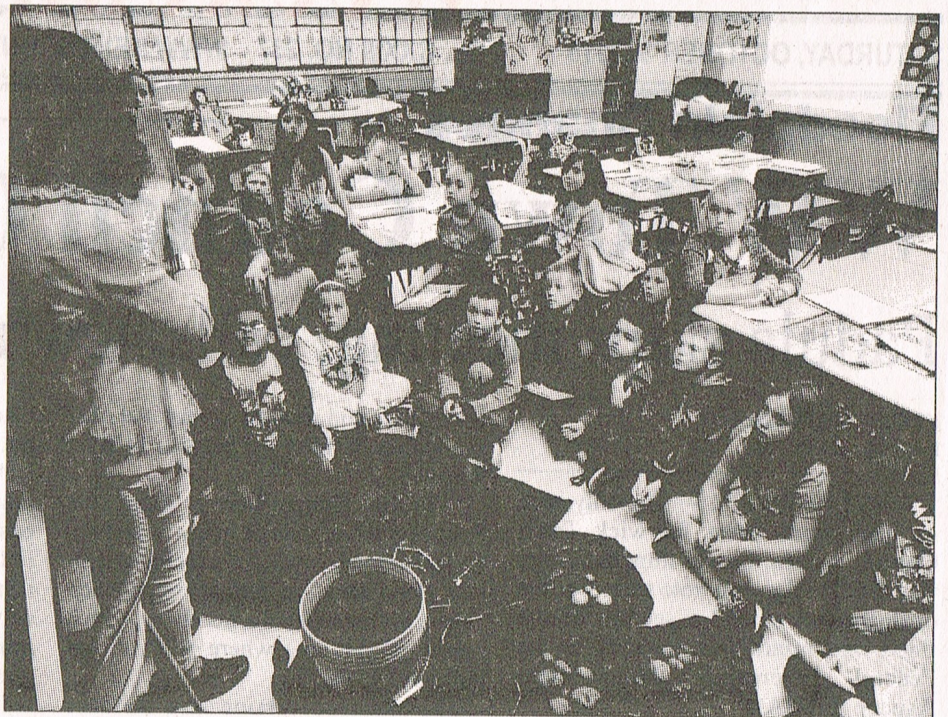
"They took a lot of pride into these projects and did such a great job," Raptakis said.

The 2015 Taterthon is the first of its kind, with plans to be an annual event put on by Scituate High School.

Students across the state working in partnership with the Scituate High School NEED (National Energy Education Development) Club received seed potato to begin growing in early summer. Potatoes needed to be harvested and scientific notebook submitted by Sept. 30.

Donovan said Western Coventry was also among the schools participating, as well as schools in Foster, Gloucester, Scituate and Providence.

"We advise the students to use the pota-



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**Tiogue Elementary teacher Donna Raptakis explains concepts to her third-grade class.**

atoes at home to tie into the project's purpose," Donovan said. "The potatoes grown at our garden are used in our food science

and nutrition classes."

For more information on the Taterthon Project, visit [www.taterthon.org](http://www.taterthon.org).