

ANJA
ERIKSEN '22

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PUTNEY'S GARDENS are the site of much joy and learning. Students and faculty are there in the spring, planting the tender seedlings, in the summer pulling weeds, and through the riot of color and abundance of the fall. "I have learned a lot about growing vegetables, flowers, how to care for the soil, and the importance of being a lifelong learner," said Michael Vercillo, former garden manager. "As soon as you think you have a system figured out, or figure that buying new equipment is going to fix a problem outright, you learn that you're wrong. You've got to plan really intentionally, but you also have to be nimble and flexible, as things change really quickly." "Teenage humans

MICHAEL
VERCILLO



aren't so different from cultivated vegetables," said Holley Evergreen Roberts, assistant garden manager. "Given thoughtful attention and access to resources, they tend to thrive."

Sometimes the connection is obvious: food, and eating. "Purple cabbage was the only vegetable I'd eat when I was young," said Beau Guenther '22. "I ate purple cabbage soup then, and I still do." Anja

BEAU
GUENTHER '22



HOLLEY
EVERGREEN
ROBERTS



Eriksen '22 worked in the garden last summer after graduation. She learned perhaps the greatest gardening lesson of them all—that it's all a metaphor. "Working in the garden I've learned about how to help plants grow best. Weeding helps make room for the ones that we're growing on purpose, but we're fortunate to have garden staff who see the value in every plant even those generally considered a weed."