

## Solomon Elementary

The fifth-graders at Solomon Elementary began the school year with  $\frac{1}{4}$ - pound of worms and six months later harvested a whopping 2 pounds, 6 ounces of the wrigglers! Their secret? *Way* too much food.

The kids thought the bugs and squirmy worms and rotting food were “eeewww,” but as soon as baby worms were spotted.... Well, they insisted that babies *must* be fed. The kids began by giving their worms 2 pounds of food a week, and this number steadily increased (one week weighed in at 4 pounds, 1.5 ounces—and all of this deposited in one worm bin!).

The more they fed the worms, the more the worms reproduced, and the more the worms reproduced, the more babies there were to feed. And by harvest time, the kids ended up with a ton of worms and no vermicast. Almost none. The vermicast was full of worm eggs, which needed a month to hatch.

“Worms love rotten food in dirt,” one student relayed. “If they have too much food then they will mate like crazy. If they have less food then they will stop mating.”

And we wouldn't want that.