

LANDED LEARNING @ SCHOOL POWELL RIVER



A GARDEN-BASED LEARNING PROGRAM FOR GRADE 4 STUDENTS



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OVERVIEW

For the 2019-2020 school year, the SD47 Food Literacy Program is piloting the Landed Learning @ School program, providing a range of curriculum-connected activities and resources to Grade 4 students and teachers, and supporting schools in developing garden-based food literacy education.

The program includes the following for all elementary schools:

- Five seasonal, curriculum-connected learning sessions in school gardens (facilitated by FLP Coordinator and community experts), with classroom extension activity resources for teachers
- A trip to a local farm focused on showing students a functioning food-producing system and demonstrating what is involved in “seed to plate” eating
- A composting demonstration session from the Let’s Talk Trash Team
- Preparing, cooking and/or preserving food harvested from the garden and/or procured locally
- Support with winterizing the garden, summer maintenance plans and other school garden know-how
- Garden materials (e.g., soil, seeds, seedlings)
- A School Garden Calendar for teachers to use for year-round garden maintenance activities
- Opportunity for teachers to participate in two facilitated Pro-D day Learning Circles, to learn about approaches to teaching in the outdoor classroom and share ideas and resources
- Intergenerational garden learning program: one school (in 2019-20 it will be Westview) will be the site of an intergenerational learning pilot, where adult volunteers from the community are partnered with small groups of students to learn and explore together in the garden.

The same content will be covered as the general program, but will consist of ten instead of five garden sessions, across the school year. Teacher, student and volunteer feedback will shape the development of the program, to be offered in one or two new school(s) each year.

1. GENERAL PROGRAM

1.1 Summary

Garden-based learning for Grade 4’s in all schools, delivered by the Food Literacy Program Coordinator and community experts. Supported with classroom extension activities and resources to help staff maintain and use school gardens as vibrant outdoor classrooms.

1.2. Overview

Activity	Timeframe	Length	Delivered by
Teacher Learning Circle 1	September 20	2.5hrs	Coordinator
Activity 1: Cycles in Nature	Early October	2.5hrs	Coordinator
Activity 2: Healthy Soil and Compost	November	2.5hr	Coordinator/Let’s Talk Trash Team
Teacher Learning Circle 2	February 14	2.5hrs	Coordinator
Activity 3: Planning and Planting	February/March	2.5hrs	Coordinator
Activity 4: Pollination (Farm visit)	May/June	2.5hrs	Coordinator/Farmer
Activity 5: Harvest Celebration	Mid-June	2.5hrs	Coordinator/Guest chef

1.3. Activity outline

1. Cycles in Nature

- Get to know the garden space, good practices for being the garden, and start to use garden journals
- Observe patterns of nature as they relate to plant lifecycles and nutrient cycles
- Identify and save healthy, mature seeds

2. Healthy Soil and Compost

- Explore different types of soil and what lives in them
- Remove dead plants from the garden and compost them (learn about compost)
- Turn and manage the compost
- Cover garden beds with mulch to protect them for winter

3. *Planning and Planting*

- Use seed catalogs as reference material to select plant varieties for
- seasonal planting
- Create a garden plan (map) for the garden with spring, summer, and
- autumn crops
- Select seeds to be planted
- Make biodegradable paper pots
- Start seedlings in the classroom that will be transplanted in the garden

4. *Pollination* (at Terra Nostra Farm)

- Observe bees and other pollinators at work in the garden
- Observe and identify parts of flowers
- Learn about organic, pollinator-friendly gardening practices
- Explore concepts of “farm to plate” and food security

5. *Harvest Celebration*

- Identify and harvest a variety of plant parts (roots, stems, leaves, flowers, fruits, seeds)
- Wash, and prepare seasonal crops
- Enjoy a nutritious and tasty salad bar grown from seed

1.4. Roles and expectations

The FLP Coordinator will:

- Deliver curriculum-connected, garden-based learning activities, and in-class extension materials, and provide model for using gardens as teaching tools
- Assist with addressing challenges/putting new ideas into practice
- Provide tools for developing an effective summer maintenance plan
- Provide support and consultation to assist teacher in continuing garden-based learning after package is delivered
- Provide teachers with opportunities to share ideas and concerns with each other and the Coordinator

The teacher/s will:

- Prepare students for activity sessions by using provided extension materials to introduce key concepts and practices
- Manage and guide students in the outdoor setting (some volunteer assistance with this will be available)
- Implement follow-up activities (such as in-class watering of seedlings, some outdoor planting, etc.) as necessary
- Communicate their needs for resources and other support to the Coordinator
- Provide feedback to Coordinator for evaluation of pilot program

Students will have the opportunity to:

- Plant, tend and harvest food plants
- Prepare and enjoy healthy snacks

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- Observe and document the natural world around them
- Use tools and equipment safely
- Work in teams to achieve mutual goals
- Relate to and work cooperatively with non-parental adults
- Understand and care for the local ecosystem