

C-L-K Elementary Heritage Garden

Est. 2009

C-L-K Elementary
2010-2011

School Year Team:

- 720 Students
- 11 Teachers
- Grades K - 5

Building a Community

May 2010, the extended community gathered to help build raised garden beds, a compost bin, and to make other garden improvements while sharing food, music, and laughter. Space and resources were provided to several families to plant their own plots, addressing the community need to help adults and children eat healthy food, and to reduce adult and childhood obesity.

Community Partners

- Calumet Housing
- Great Explorations, BHK Summer Program
- Hughes Farm
- MSU Extension
- Western UP Health Dept - Healthy Kids/Healthy Communities Program

Student Learning Outcomes

Students learned about the basic needs of all living things by planting seedlings indoors, later transplanting them in the garden using an organic "square-foot" gardening method.

Students learned of the social, economic and environmental benefits of eating locally grown organic food versus food imported from other regions of the country and beyond, as well as the benefits of composting.

The Lake Superior Stewardship Initiative (LSSI) project has taught our students to think about the watershed in which they live. Most can now name their watershed as "Lake Superior," and explain what a watershed is. They understand that eating locally grown foods is better for the health of their watershed than eating foods shipped from areas farther away, and they understand that chemical-free gardening methods are better for the health of their watershed.

This project, overall, has had a positive affect on every "type" of student, including those not usually met by more "traditional" educational methods.

Aside from beautifying a stark, formerly industrial landscape, the C-L-K Elementary Heritage Garden Project has helped foster a "sense of place" for our students. This fulfills part of the mission of the Keweenaw National Historical Park.

Our students have interviewed and recorded garden stories of elderly community members, thus preserving them for generations to come, furthering that sense of place, and giving elderly members increased community contact and an outlet for their stories. The students are more aware of all aspects of stewardship. This project has widened the students' horizons by connecting them to their community elders.

Teachers Teaching Teachers

A professional book club reading of Kingsolver's Animal, Vegetable, Miracle took place last winter, and this year's selection is Louv's Last Child in the Woods. The LSSI C-L-K team presented at an area-wide teacher gardening workshop in April, 2010.



C-L-K Work Bee



Preparing 19 additional classroom beds and 5 for community members.... getting things done with a whole lot of fun!



Need something to do on a Saturday in May? How about paint the gazebo, stain the shed, build 24 new beds and a compost bin, mix soil, dig dirt, haul materials, hammer boards, move a fence, watch people, eat pasties, listen to music, make new friends.... One Saturday chock-full of over 140 people - students, staff, administrators, neighbors, best friends, community partners, grandparents, musicians and a list of projects adding up to a whole lot of fun, C-L-K style!

2010-2011 School Year Project Timeline

