

C-L-K students enjoy garden education

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CALUMET - Despite a short period of rainfall Tuesday, students at C-L-K Elementary School were able to get outside for a special day of garden education.

Because of the rain Tuesday, students started the event by enjoying fruit cups and listening to live music in the cafeteria. Once the storm passed and the sun peeked through the clouds, the kids ventured outdoors to work in the C-L-K Heritage Garden and Playground.

"This is Get Outside Day and the idea is to work in the garden and be outdoors," said kindergarten teacher Barb Kinnunen-Skidmore.

The event replaces the work bee usually held during a weekend, where students help plant flowers and plants to work toward a more beautiful and sustainable garden.

"We wanted to include kindergarten through fifth-graders," she said. More than 700 CLK Elementary School children participated in the event.

All classes started in the cafeteria with a fruit snack where students socialized and prepared to head outdoors. Once outside, they loaded wheelbarrows with soil, pulled weeds and replanted new plants they started in the classrooms.

Crystal Trowbridge of Laurium was just one of the many parent volunteers who turned out to assist with Get Outside Day.

"I wanted to be with my daughter and I love being here at school," she said.

Trowbridge enjoys volunteering at the school and has come to know many of the children, including the friends of her daughter, kindergarten student Katrinna Hodge.

"She's having a blast," Trowbridge said.

By working with the garden, the hope is to teach students about sustainable living and to make healthier food choices that conserve energy and protect the Lake Superior watershed.

The C-L-K Heritage Garden is a project of the Lake Superior Stewardship Initiative, which strives to connect schools and communities in the stewardship of Lake Superior and its watershed. It is one of eight hubs funded by the Great Lakes Stewardship Initiative and the Great Lakes Fisheries Trust, with additional funding from the Wege Foundation.