Cultivating Connections: Developing After-School Curriculum for School Gardens

Emily Jenkins, Justin Knowles, Abbey Leonardi, Bianca Flynn, Chelsea Ingram, Trisha Maxfield, Kaelin Oppedal

Team Manager: Kassandra Hishida
UO Environmental Leadership Program

Environmental Education

- Canopy Connections
- Cultivating Connections
- Restoring Connections

Conservation Science

- Climate and Phenology
- Stream Stewardship
- Riparian Restoration
In School

• Clear Lake Elementary
• Bertha Holt Elementary
• Dos Rios Elementary
• River Road Elementary
• Guy Lee Elementary
• Thurston Elementary
• Danebo Elementary

After School

• Howard Elementary
• River Road Elementary
• Chavez Elementary
Methods: Awareness to Actions

- **Awareness** of the relationship between humans and natural systems
- **Knowledge** of the natural processes that occur in a garden system (pollination, pollinators, weather, habitat, food production)
- **Attitudes** of reciprocity, stewardship and responsibility for the garden environment
- **Skills** of critical thinking, problem solving, and observation in regards to the environment
- **Action** in engagement with gardens in school and community
- Tblisi Declaration (1977)

Educating students about gardens in order to excite personal responsibility and stewardship for the environment!
Methods: Engaged Pedagogy

Teachers as Mentors

- Engaged in the learning process
- Approachable

Inclusivity

- Acknowledging various learning styles
- Recognizing students’ unique life experiences and influence on individuality

Recognition of Individuals

- Race and ethnicity
- Socio-economic background
- Sex and gender
- Cultural background
- Diverse perspectives
Methods: NAAEE GUIDELINES

*Implemented in curriculum building:*

- Fair and Accurate
- Depth
- Skill Building
- Action Oriented
- Instructional Soundness
- Usability
Curriculum

- Developed a series of 5 lesson plans
- Spring Phenology Sequence
210 Hours of Hands-On Volunteer Work
560 Students Mentored
650 Hours of Professional Development

"To plant a garden is to believe in tomorrow."
- Audre Lorde

[Images of children engaging in learning activities]
Summary

- Teaching Methods
- Evolving Technique
- Creating Curriculum
- Implementing Lessons
- Professional Development
What We Gained

Community

Leadership

Support

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- Howard Elementary
- Clear Lake Elementary
- Holt Elementary
- Chavez Elementary
- Dos Rios Elementary
- River Road Elementary
- Guy Lee Elementary
- Thurston Elementary

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Questions?