



St. Gabriel School — Edmonton, AB



Reynolds Secondary School — Victoria, BC

“First and foremost, these school gardens will be educational tools. They can provide a tangible, real world contextual element to otherwise abstract ideas. Edible gardens can supplement lessons for every core subject in the majority of grade levels. From environmental science to nutrition, agricultural issues to measuring the circumference of a tomato, the gardens are as versatile as we are creative. Here are a few linkages between the gardens’ potential educational power Alberta Curriculum as found on LearnAlberta.ca.

Language Arts:

School Gardens are excellent tools for Language Arts, and can be used to help fulfill lessons for both General Learning Outcome 1 and General Outcome 3 on all grade levels.

General Outcome 1 Writing Stories

Students will listen, speak, read, write, view and represent to explore thoughts, ideas, feelings and experiences.

Students can be invited to create original stories, poems, etc, about the garden. As the grade level advances, more levels of multi-media can be introduced to add depth to the compositions. Students can be encouraged to be as creative as possible, such as writing a story from the perspective of a tomato plant or imagining what it would be like to plant enough food to feed everyone in the world.



Brock Corydon School — Winnipeg, MB

1.1 Discover and Explore

Express ideas and develop understanding

- contribute relevant ideas and information from personal experiences to group language activities
- talk about how new ideas and information have changed previous understanding
- express or represent ideas and feelings resulting from activities or experiences with oral, print and other media texts

Experiment with language and forms

- use a variety of forms of oral, print and other media texts to organize and give meaning to experiences, ideas and information

Express preferences

- explain why particular oral, print or other media texts are personal favourites

Set goals

- recognize and talk about developing abilities as readers, writers and illustrators

1.2 Clarify and Extend

Consider the ideas of others

- connect own ideas and experiences with those shared by others

Combine ideas

- record ideas and information in ways that make sense

Extend understanding

- find more information about new ideas and topics

"Our school garden is part of the culture of our school. It's not used just for gardening or for "learning", but for poetry slams, arts classes, chutney-making workshops, after-school garden parties, and pot lucks. It's a place where all students feel a bit of ownership."

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General Outcome 3 Keeping a Garden Journal

Students will listen, speak, read, write, view and represent to manage ideas and information.

Students can be invited to visit the garden to journal from a variety of different perspectives. Individual students may approach the garden unique points of view, with some following a bean plant's growth while others watch ripening tomatoes. Still other students may document insects or make environmental observations.

3.1 Plan and Focus

Focus attention

- explore and share own ideas on topics of discussion and study
- connect information from oral, print and other media texts to topics of study

Determine information needs

- ask and answer questions to satisfy information needs on a specific topic

Plan to gather information

- follow spoken directions for gathering ideas and information

3.3 Organize, Record and Evaluate

Organize information

- identify or categorize information according to sequence, or similarities and differences
- list related ideas and information on a topic, and make statements to accompany pictures

Record information

- represent and explain key facts and ideas in own words

Evaluate information

- recognize and use gathered information to communicate new learning

3.4 Share and Review

Share ideas and information

- share ideas and information from oral, print and other media texts with familiar audiences
- answer questions directly related to texts

Review research process

- talk about information gathering experiences by describing what was interesting, valuable or helpful

- Journals can incorporating into lessons at a number of Grade levels in order to fulfill specific General Outcomes

Create Stories

- From a creative perspective, students can be invited to enhance



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“Our entire community knows about our school garden because we invite them all to our weekly after-school farmers market, where students sell the produce we've grown in our 11 raised garden beds as well as crafts. It's a total success and it has all been made possible because of a very supportive principal, extraordinarily active parents, and the enthusiasm of the students.”

Trafalgar Elementary School — Vancouver, BC