Stars in Our Schools

EduCulture Project Provides Real Food for Thought

Following John Dewey's century-old idea that schools are an authentic form of active community life, rather than "a place set apart in which to learn lessons," The EduCulture Project at Global Source Education has partnered with and provided BISD students, teachers and community members "lived experiences." Their edible education programs are transforming our local farms into community classrooms.

Under Jon Garfunkel's leadership, The EduCulture Project is coordinating student and staff experiences with local farms, integrating curricula (science, math, language arts, and social studies) into the planting, harvesting and eating of food grown by students. BISD Food Services Supervisor Patty Rounsley brings those efforts into school lunches with a Bite of Bainbridge featured on menus throughout the school year.

BISD Food Services Supervisor Patty Rounsley and Jon Garfunkel, Managing Director of Global Source Education, bring farms and food to students.

In school lunches this fall, a variety of potatoes planted and harvested by students from Wilkes and Blakely were featured in recipes like homemade Creamy Potato Cheddar or Creamy Potato, Cheddar and Chicken soups. At Sakai, Commodore, Blakely, Ordway and Wilkes, 300 pounds of raspberries grown by Island treasure Akio Suyematsu (Class of '42) were served in a fruit, yogurt and granola parfait.

Since the start of the school year, the EduCulture Project has served close to 700 students through the edible education programs at Suyematsu-Bentryn, Morales and Heyday Farms, harvesting more than 2500 lbs. of locally grown, student-sown produce. Master farmers like Brian MacWhorter, Betsey Wittick, Karen Selvar (Class of '82), and community partners like Friends of the Farms and COBI, have been key to the process.

For the scholarship, stewardship, citizenship and sustainability shared, Garfunkel and Rounsley are certainly Stars In Our Schools.