

Calypso's School Garden Initiative



We get kids familiar with their food

- The gardens are outdoor classrooms



- Kids have fun in the garden



- Kids get to participate in growing their food



- Students pick and eat food in the garden

- Teachers us it in the fall



Students at Randy Smith Garden
picking carrots



Art lesson that followed a study of bugs

- Calypso Staff also Leads Tours and Lessons in the gardens

• Calypso Summer Education Programs

Summer maintenance is a big part of a school garden equation.

Calypso wanted to use the summer for additional summer education programs



- **EATinG program (Educating Alaskan Teens in Gardening)**
 - For students 11-17
 - Started by paying students
 - Gave full seasons experience, including selling
 - Difficult to sustain at 5 gardens
 - Now offered at one garden with kids taking shares home

• Calypso Summer Education Programs

• LEAF program (Learning Ecology & Alaskan Farming)

- Started in 2014
- Summer Camp for kids of all ages, but most successful for K-6 graders
- Kids gardened, played games, prepared food in the garden, arts & crafts.
- Specific Arts and Cooking Camps for students 12 and older
- Taught them about their food web, being comfortable outdoors, nutrition, cooking, and teamwork
- Offered a generous scholarship program



Lessons Learned....(abbreviated)

- Each Garden is DIFFERENT!

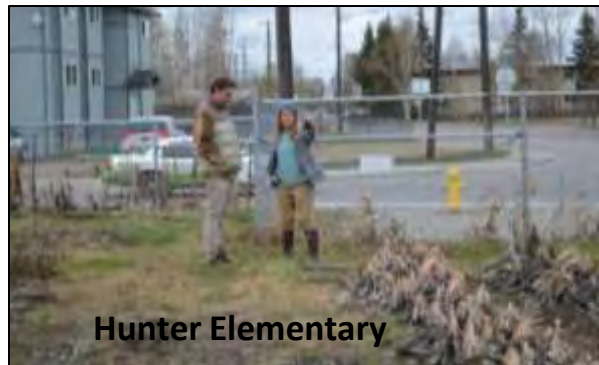
- Each location has different needs and conditions.
- They grow differently!
- Each location is used differently.
- Different schools/districts have different policies.
- Some administrators are more supportive.
- Some schools have more teachers with gardens of their own
- Some schools will actively fundraise to help the program



Woodriver Elementary



Pearl Creek Elementary



Hunter Elementary



Randy Smith Middle

It is important to establish the goals of the garden early and include as many partners as possible. Make sure it will be a garden that will work for the school and the community.



Chinook Charter School

Lessons Learned....(abbreviated)

- Consistency

If the School Garden is the result of a few dedicated people how will it be sustained if they leave?

Calypso's best solution has been Garden Committees at each school there is a garden. Each committee is different, but we encourage administration, staff, teachers, parents, and community members to be a part of it.

Lessons Learned....(abbreviated)

- **Communication is important**

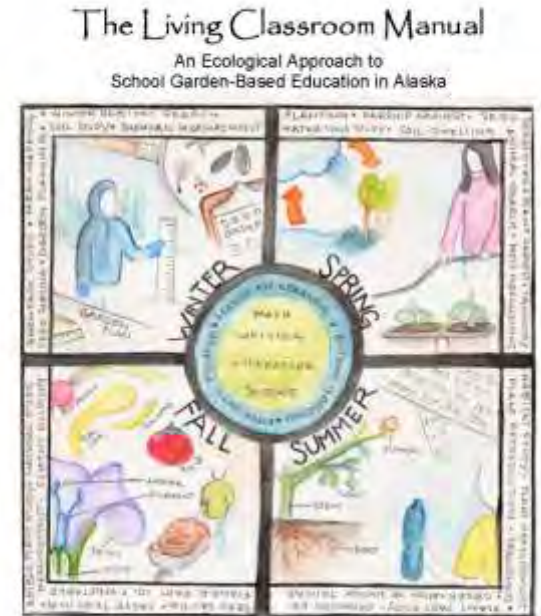
It can help with consistency, especially when in writing.

Don't forget to keep parents (PTA) and the community informed!

Lessons Learned....(abbreviated)

- Getting teachers out and comfortable

Calypso has a book of lesson ideas and prompts called
The Living Classroom Manual to help.



Correlated to Alaska Grade Level Expectations and Standards
Compiled by Calypso Farm and Ecology Center
Fall 2006

There are MANY online resources to help get teachers thinking about using the garden to expand on their lessons

Calypso leads teachers and students through the garden for a tour and simple lessons in the fall

Use Staff Meetings and In-Service Days to help share ideas and inspiration (Garden Committee can be very helpful here)

Lessons Learned (abbreviated)

- Staffing

Make sure the rolls are clear who will do what and provide what. Who is responsible for staffing in the summer? How will it be funded??



- Community involvement

This can mean volunteers to help and funders to help support

- A work group can be helpful in spring to get a lot of work done quickly – otherwise heavy staffing in the front of the season is needed to prepare.
- Community Volunteers can help with maintenance such as watering and weeding
- It will be easier to find funding the more active the community is in the garden
- Vandalism will be lower with community involvement

This Summer's Plans

- LEAF – Keeping the program that gets kids in the garden for week long camps
- EATinG – Revising the program to one garden.
- More volunteers and cooperate work parties



- Find more volunteers and cooperate work parties