

Apple Capture 2019

Summary:

Fall 2019 was the first in-school Apple Capture program. Five schools participated, with an estimated 1184 students. Together, we made apple chips, apple sauce and apple juice. Whatever was not consumed on the spot was left with the school. Stations included washing, press, juicer, slicer/corer, sauce maker, cutting by hand, activity/game (memory, colouring).

The feedback was positive but students and teachers both wanted more time to cycle through all the stations. We used so many apples (1767lbs for both in-school and community apple capture), that a second community picking event was needed. Primary students work slower and used fewer apples than intermediate students.

Schools were quick to accept the program offer, with all fall 2019 allocations tentatively booked before the end of school in spring 2019. Other schools heard about the program and all schools for fall 2020 have been allocated, as per requests from this fall.

Strengths:

- Visited 5 schools, approximately 1184 students
- Class visits included an introduction activity/discussion to link the in-school program to food security and animal attractants. (Lifecycle of apple for primary students, Earth apple demo showing limited available land for food production for intermediate students)
- Together, in-school and community apple capture processed 1767lbs of apples from within the city of Kimberley
- Having extra equipment purchased was vital to not hindering community programs and the sharing shed
- Volunteer Colin! Colin assisted at Marysville and McKim schools and was a huge help!
- Likewise, Claire was a big help in cleaning up at the end of the days when she was available

Weaknesses:

- Did not have the man power and resources (time, canning supplies, access to full kitchens at the school) to process and can items, so leftovers were frozen instead
- Most classes didn't have enough time for students to visit every station
- Having only one staff was not ideal. With full classes, it is very difficult to manage all the students, keep an eye on the equipment, and watch the apple sauce cooking on the stove down the hall
- Set up and clean up are arduous and would really benefit from a second person
- We need to find a good solution for disposing of the used apple mash

Opportunities:

- There are enough schools in Kimberley and Cranbrook and enough interest that this program could run every year, rotating schools. At the current rate of 5 schools/year, we could visit all 13 local elementary schools every 3 years (Kimberley, Cranbrook and Aquam elementary schools only).
- A second person, ideally staff would be immensely helpful
- We could do fewer schools each year to allow more days at each location and longer sessions with each class
- Splitting classes into two groups could ease the load, but would require significantly more time

Treats:

- Schools are not willing to book any programs during the first two weeks of classes. Programs can only run mid-September through the end of October
- Sourcing enough apples is the primary limiting factor. Using apples from Cranbrook as well as Kimberley would help

Camp Odyssey 2019

Summary:

Camp Odyssey ran for the first time in summer 2019 with two weeks of camp, one in July and one in August. Patty Kolesnicheno and Kim Urbaniak were the primary leaders, with help from Brooke Leneyhorst. Camp Odyssey is full outdoors (excluding inclement weather), and gets kids into naturalized areas each day. Activities included wilderness survival skills, shelter building, orienteering, map reading, pond dipping, papermaking, and plenty of time for free play and creativity. We visited either the Kimberley Nature Park, Kimberley Community Garden, or the naturalized area behind Rails to Trails each day, before ending at the splash park.

Promotion was not as strong as anticipated and registrations were low, but that should be expected for the first year of a program. With the help of funds from the e-bike raffle we were able to run the full program as planned.

Those who attended were pleased. The kids had lots of fun, and the parents were happy, reporting tired but not exhausted children at the end of the day.

Currently, I have begun planning for summer 2020, and have a pending grant application through the RDEK Community Initiatives fund.

Strengths:

- Kids who came had fun. Most of the July kids wanted to come back for August (couldn't because of scheduling)
- Patty's tool kit!
- Having two responsible instructors allowing for safe and enjoyable hiking
- Shuttling vehicles to Nature Park/splash park/school
- Splash park at the end of the day - something to look forward to, and free play
- Having a playground in the morning - free play was highly valued
- Access to indoor space, including the kitchen
- Visiting the community garden / having a slower or less walking day

Weaknesses:

- By end of the weeks, kids are very tired and don't want to hike. Should plan slower activities for these days
- Because we are limited in length of hikes, we repeated locations, which the kids didn't love
- KIS is 15+mins from the Nature Park

- o Kids mentioned this seemed unnecessarily far
- Promotion was not effective enough to cover operational costs

Opportunities:

- There are so many trails to explore. If we omit the splash park, we can go much further
- Other indoor locations could offer a new set of trails to explore
- Expand into Cranbrook and to younger kids
- Hiring another camp leader (as Patty is not available for most of 2020) could bring in a new collection of experience and activities.

Threats:

- Scheduling must be done very early and could conflict with theater camp (a one week only program)
- The green space behind KIS is full of old railway debris, and not suitable for free play. We need an alternative natural space near the indoor location
- Kimberley is known for last-minute registrations which puts pressure on us to figure out last minute if camp can run.

Feedback from Kids:

- How was today: “Awesome!” - McKayla
- “I’m so glad I came!” - Zoe
- That’s a jackpot of stuff! - Tayo, pond dipping
- Oh my gosh, there’s so many small ones! - Griffin, pond dipping
- I liked hiking outside
- Can we stay here 20 more minutes?!?! - while exploring the creek by Higgins entrance
- Come to Camp Odyssey because...
 - o It is awesome, you get to do everything you want - Tayo
 - o If you like playing outdoors this is the camp for you
 - o If you like hiking, then this is the choice - Stella
 - o You always get to do the stuff you want to do - Fynn
 - o Your feet will wear themselves out - Jack
 - o You can care about wildlife

- o There's cool activities and fun all day - Tayo
- o For lots of surprises - Kieran

McGinty Lake 2019

McGinty Lake Education Program continues to be a success. This year, programs have expanded into Cherry Creek Falls Recreation Area as well, and the entire collection re-named as Meadowbrook Education Programs. Also new for 2019/2020 are stewardship projects with secondary students. This was initiated with a group from Kimberley Alternate School visiting McGinty Lake and doing some site cleanup (glass around the fire pit area) and trail clearing.

For the 2019-2020 school year, I have been projecting 20 classes participating in programs. So far in Fall 2019, 121 students have participated: 5 classes visited McGinty Lake (including the Alternate School), and 2 classes tried out the new Cherry Creek rock program.

I have 8 classes booked for McGinty Lake field trips for Spring 2020. However, in light of the current school closures, many of these will likely be cancelled. I will be pushing for McGinty field trips right up to the end of school, as this program is still beneficial in the final week of school after report cards have been completed.

Moving forward the offerings are:

- Kindergarten - Gr 3: Wetland field trips to McGinty Lake
 - o Kindergarten: Creatures Big and Small
 - o Grade 1: Adaptations
 - o Grade 2: Mayfly Lifecycles
 - o Grade 3: Biodiversity
- Gr 4: Plant investigation at Cherry Creek Falls (was supposed to begin in Spring 2020)
- Gr 5: Rockin Through The Ages geology exploration at Cherry Creek Falls
- Secondary Students: stewardship projects as needed

This fall, we were invited to present to the SD6 Board meeting at Lindsay Park School. We were well received, and the school board has agreed to pay for all bussing costs, since programs are directly connected to the curriculum.