

Education
Programs
2023/2024

WESTERN FAIR
district
PARTNERS IN FOOD & AGRICULTURAL EDUCATION



Growing Chefs! Ontario Impact Report - School Programs





London

LICIOUS

Thank you to all of our sponsors!

The Londonlicious Festival supports us in realizing our vision of a healthy community that is engaged with our food system! All sponsorships of the bi-annual festival also support our children's education projects.

Feedback from a guest at a participating restaurant:

"I feel like The Chef's Table is a hidden gem downtown. When you go there, you're not just getting a delicious meal; you're also supporting Fanshawe students to get hands-on experience in all aspects of working in restaurants. It's a win-win. And if you go during Londonlicious, you're supporting Growing Chefs! **So really, it's a triple win.**" - Shelby W.



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For more information on the new
Londonlicious Festival visit www.londonlicious.ca

Notes from the Classroom!



Renovations can't keep us down! While our elementary field trips were put on pause this school year due to renovations at The Grove (stay tuned to see the revamped classrooms in the spring!), we refocused our energy outdoors and into classrooms. **This impact report will focus on telling the stories of these school programs!**

We started the school year off strong with outdoor field trips, such as Western Fair School-Ag Tours, and high school greenhouse visits with alternative education programs. **One theme that keeps popping up in feedback is that participants feel an instant sense of community with us. We couldn't be more proud to hear that, and want everyone reading this to feel apart of our community too!**

One teacher reflected, "the students really enjoyed seeing how the garden was set up, tasting and sampling different plants that were growing, and taking home pears and poaching them. The strawberry scones and mint tea were such a lovely treat. Ilana and Lauren were both very knowledgeable and friendly. We felt very welcome with an instant sense of community!"

This school year, our team of chefs, educators, garden experts and volunteers also:

- delivered Growing Chefs! Ontario in the Classroom to nearly 2000 students at Kensal Park, Westmount and Glen Cairn Public Schools
- wrapped up our School Garden pilot program
- scaled up our Cultural Diversity Snack Project with the Ontario Student Nutrition Program to reach almost 10,000 students by the end of the school year
- worked with knowledge keepers and cultural advisors for the London District Catholic School Board to deliver in-school cooking classes showcasing indigenous culture
- offered engaging and interactive webinars for primary students
- launched our new Kindergarten Kitchen program in classrooms across the city, and when word spread quickly, scaled up to reach as many classrooms as possible.

Keep reading to see what hands-on food systems education looks like in practice!

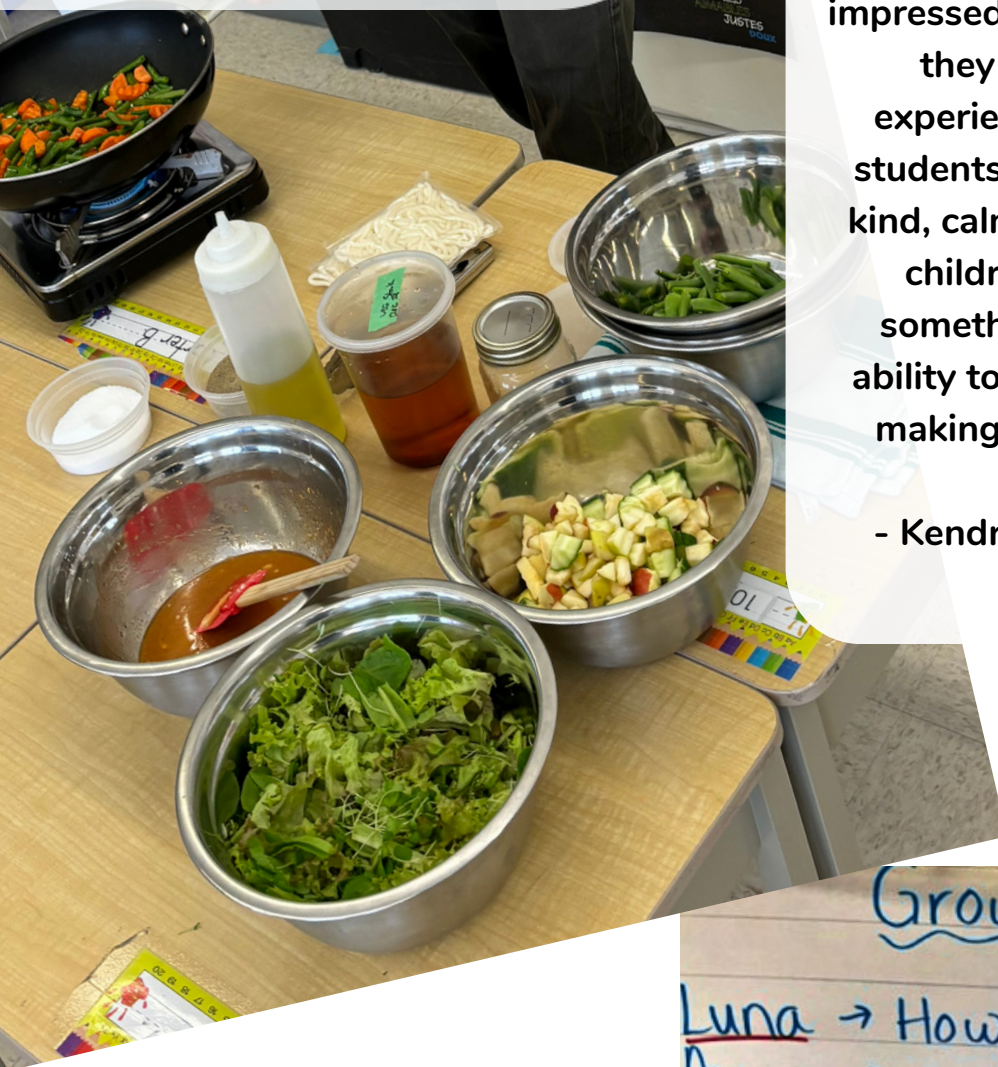
- Christy Cook, Education Projects Manager

Program Spotlight: Kindergarten Kitchen!

This winter we launched a brand new in-school program for Kindergarten classes to explore food waste in a fun and engaging way! Students got hands-on making salsa and guacamole to enjoy with tortilla chips. While they munched away on their snack, they learned how to regrow the green onions ends and sprout the avocado pits they used in the recipe. They then took turns holding our composting worms and turning the rest of the food scraps into worm compost to be used in the garden!



Testimonials



“A huge thank you to you for a wonderful day filled with loads of learning, yummy food, and a ton of fun! All the teachers involved came to me to let me know how impressed they were and how appreciative they were for the opportunity to experience something like this for our students. I agree it was wonderful! Your kind, calm, and caring approach with the children was key in the delivery of something so new for them. Also the ability to have them all participate in the making of the food was very special.”

- Kendra C, Teacher, Old North Public School



“This is what my class learned -> Then we had the kids taste the snack again and choose their favourite. Amazing program. It was so good and the salsa and guacamole were outstanding. Everyone loved it. You need to expand!”

- Becky T, ECE, Lambeth Public School

Growing Chefs

- Luna → How to grow plants
- Amura → cooking
- Amber N → how to hold worms
- Drake → worms eat compost and poop it out!
- Keenat → plants grow with seeds
- Bronson → worms need water
- Ivor → worms like the dark
- Simone → how to cook
- Owen → fruit grows from fruit seeds.
- Aurora → worms eat compost
- Levi → I know how to scoop out avacod
- Amro → I cut something up
- Jodie → I learned that worms eat comp
- Hailey → I learned cooking



In September, we partnered with the Grove at Western Fair District, along with Ontario Pork and Dairy, Beef, Grain and Egg Farmers of Ontario to lead 1500 students through a week of hands-on field trips exploring the entire food system!

The 2023-2024 School Food Education Project
is presented by our Title Sponsor:



With the generosity of the following Community and Corporate Sponsors:



Colborne Street United Church
Local Outreach Committee



**We are fortunate to have the generous support of Grants,
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Thank you for your support!

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