



Integrating ICT and Web 2.0 Technologies with the Kitchen Garden Program

Program background

At Foster Primary School, we started to implement the Stephanie Alexander Kitchen Garden Program into the school just over 12 months ago. We were lucky enough to already have a good vegetable garden, some fruit trees and a keen person to work in the garden. Due to decreasing student numbers we had a couple of rooms we could devote to the kitchen program and convert them into a very functional, purpose built kitchen and dining room.

Our parents and the wider community was very pleased to be involved and offered a lot of support both in kind and financially. We also have a diverse group of volunteers, many of whom have no other direct connection to the school.

It was decided that we would offer the program to the children of years 3 – 6 which totals approximately 120 students. The classes have been timetabled for one hour of garden time per week and two hours kitchen time.

So how can we fit in other curriculum areas with so much time being devoted to the Kitchen Garden Program?

All students keep written journals of their experience in the kitchen and garden. They need to write what they have been doing in the garden, recipes they have used in the kitchen and they are required to express their opinions about the activities and food. As many of the foods come from other parts of the world they look at different countries and geographical regions. Also, the students examine different preparing, cooking and preserving methods. History of food and cultivation is also discussed and examined. The students regularly use the Internet to research different aspects about the kitchen and garden.

Using ICT with the Program

The students have been learning multimedia skills during ICT lessons so they were required to direct some projects to the Kitchen Garden Program. Digital reports, Powerpoint presentations and using a variety of different software programs were offered and used to enhance what the students were doing. Many of them decided on movie making as a way to share information.

When movie making, the children had to choose what they wanted to make the movies about and write a script. They also needed to determine the method of filming. For instance did they want to use still shots or moving stock? Was it going to have text on the film or narration or both? What sort of music, if any, will it have?

What program will they use to edit and collate it? How will it be published and who will see it? How long will it go for?

These were all issues the students had to think about.

After writing a script, some groups used a digital still camera on Movie Mode and they filmed aspects of the garden and then collated and edited them using Movie Maker. They narrated their movies, compose and create their own soundtrack to go with the movies and put it all together.

Other groups chose to use a number of images of the garden over the past 3 years and put together a digital diary of the progression of the garden and write a caption for each month. They used Powerpoint to put it all together. This is seen as an ongoing digital project that will be continuously revisited and updated.

Some groups chose to use still shots of the breeding and rearing of our chickens and used Photostory to put the movie together. They were still required to add music and narration and use their sequencing skills to make the movie flow.

After an excursion of planting Garlic some students took film footage of the day and collated it to make a movie of the experience. Again they were required to add a sound track and to narrate the movie.

As a way of easily sharing their project and bringing the whole experience together, we decided a Wiki was the most appropriate form of sharing with the students easily being able to do the input and keep it up to date. It acts as a link for the various tasks and projects they are doing and a platform that can be easily edited by the students and staff at the school.

During this time the school became involved in a collaborative project with another school in the region and was able to share their experiences of both the Kitchen Garden Program and their ICT skills and projects.

There are many ways in which to incorporate ICT and Web 2.0 technologies into the Kitchen Garden Program and as technology is an ever evolving area there are always new and exciting things to explore and use.

We now have a kitchen wiki too which we plan to use for staff and volunteers, upload recipes and information and use as a forum to discuss good ideas, issues and share information and resources. All the wikis are linked to our school web site. www.fosterps.vic.edu.au click onto Kitchen Garden or Projects.

If you would like more information please do not hesitate to contact Wendie Walker at Foster Primary School.