

Our Edible School Yard Dream

We are some of the members of the Environmental Patrols at West St Paul School. We pick up all of the classroom's recycling and compost. We talk about things we want to do at our school and are trying to learn how to share our ideas with more people at our school so we can actually do stuff.

Some of us got to go to the Human Rights Museum to do workshops about climate action. This is us!

Before

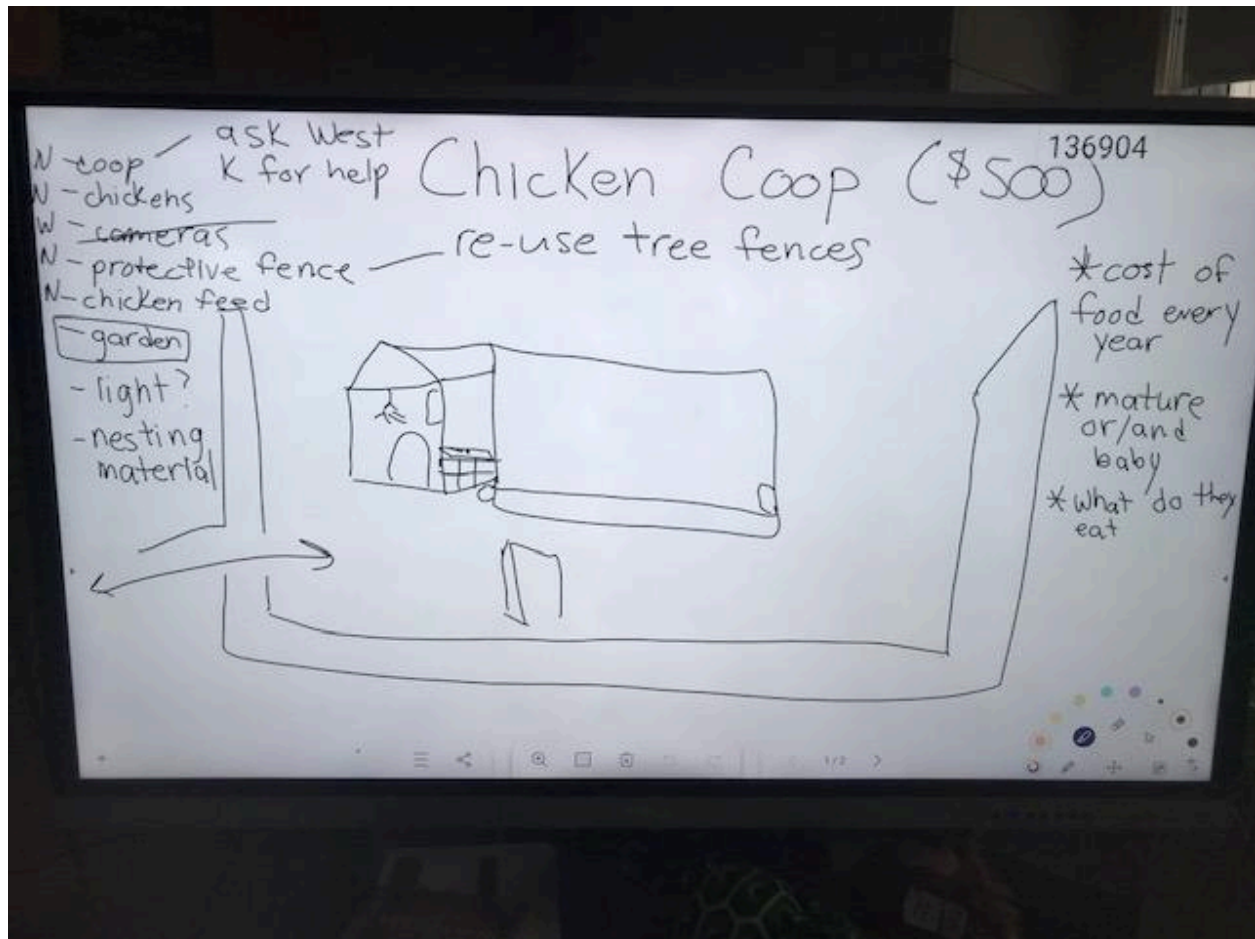


After



We came up with so many ideas. When we got back and told everyone about the money we got to try out our ideas they were so happy. We wanted to start making an edible school yard. We want to walk around and pick berries, and vegetables, and have eggs. We could give the food to our breakfast program, or just snack on stuff at the break.

We want to have chickens and a chicken coop and wanted to do that first. Here is a drawing of our first talk about that.



After we talked, we noticed that it would be very expensive. It would also take us a long time to get volunteers and donations or fund raising or more money. Also, we found out our school will be getting more portables and construction for a day-care and we don't know when or where and we don't want our chickens and their coop to get squashed.

Next we thought we could start with a big garden. We found out the ground is not great, and we would have to dig it up and let it rest and dig it up and add compost and it will take a long time and it would probably need soil. We thought have to make it moveable because of all the construction coming. We might start all that hard work and then it could get ruined by big trucks or have a classroom plopped on it. We decided not to use the money for that either. We still measured the garden boxes we already have to find out how much soil we could order to fill them up more and also fill up the boxes our middle years students are building. So we will still have a garden. Here is us working on that. Also, we made a big mistake with our calculations and almost ordered two semi trucks full because we didn't change the meters to yards properly. But the principal and custodian noticed so they fixed it and we got the right amount.





We also tried to learn a little bit about the ecosystems already in our school yard. We tried putting out bird seed to see what kind of birds would come. We also talked about what lives in ditches and what can we leave alone to be more natural.



We saw some Red Wing Black birds eating at the feeder and lots of other birds around. We are learning about tadpoles too and can hear frogs in the ditches in front of the school and behind it near the tracks.

Once we started thinking about protecting some places and knowing that so much construction is going to happen, we decided to use the money to start the berries. We are going to plant them in a fenced off area where we already planted some trees last year. They are supposed to be wind breakers. We hope they can protect our berries and there is already a fence so no one will step on them, and they can grow.

Here is a picture of that spot...

We ordered Aurora Haskap berries and Northline Saskatoons. We picked those because they grow here naturally and can survive winter. This is what the place said about what we ordered...

"Aurora Haskap produces great tasting berries with a taste that is a cross between raspberry and blueberry. The berries can be used for eating fresh, baking, jams and jellies, freezing. Haskaps are high in vitamins, fibre, and anti-oxidants.

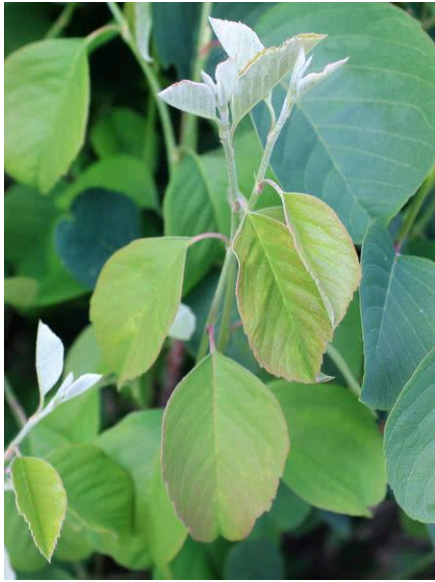
Aurora is an early pollinating variety. Pair with other early pollinators to have a higher yield.

Aurora is a great companion variety for the Borealis."



"Northline Saskatoon is a native shrub that's famous for its great-tasting fruit. The berries are terrific for fresh eating and cooking. The Saskatoon bush itself can be quite large and produces an abundance of fruit. Saskatoons are hardy and can tolerate partial shade and a variety of growing conditions.

Northline Saskatoon is popular because it seldom gets over 8 feet in height, which makes it ideal for U-Pick orchards and over-row harvester equipment. The uniform ripening of the berries in full clusters and the desirable sweet taste also make this variety a favorite."



We are now waiting for our order to come. We think we will get to plant them in the middle of June. Thank you for giving us money to start our plan. Thank you for giving us time to think about the climate and things we can do now to help take care of our planet.

Sincerely,

WSP Environmental Patrols