

## **Making Locally Grown History with Edible Education Project at Morales Farm**

June 8, 2010  
Bainbridge Island, WA

This spring, through a new pilot project in edible education, a group of Bainbridge Island farmers, educators and students will be seeding some locally grown history. For the first time on Bainbridge Island, publically owned farmland is being used in service to public education to create public produce that will be distributed to the school lunch program starting this fall.

Through the educational interest and generosity of local farmers and Friends of The Farms, who manages some city-owned farmland, a parcel of community landscape at Morales Farm (Lovgreen & Hwy 305) has been set aside for dedicated local farm-school programs on Bainbridge Island. The EduCulture Project, which has been developing grown farm-school programs on Bainbridge Island for the past three years, is overseeing the educational development of this pilot program.

Brian MacWhorter of Butler Green Farms, Betsey Wittick of Laughing Crow Farm, and Karen Selvar of Bainbridge Island Farms, are serving as master farmers to oversee the agricultural integrity and authenticity of the project. Brian MacWhorter prepared the plot for planting, and Betsey Wittick donated 400 seed potatoes to get the program started. Apprentice farmers and educators are being trained to help manage the farmland and work with students.

Neighboring Wilkes Elementary School will be our partner school for this pilot project at Morales Farm. During the last few weeks of the school year, Wilkes students in grades 1-4 will be planting potatoes, corn, sunflowers and sugar pumpkins at the Morales Farm plot. Students will be involved in growing this food from seed through harvest, and will have a hand in the processing, distribution and consumption of the produce.

What is grown through this outdoor classroom program will be served in the Bainbridge Island School District lunch program, studied and consumed through classroom projects, donated to the community, and used to “farmraise” to keep the project going.

We hope this outdoor classroom will be a seedbed for:

- Locally grown food production that will contribute to a more sustainable school and community food system.
- Enriching and enlivening curricula, nurturing school and home gardens, informing farm stewardship and food citizenship, and modeling education for sustainability.
- Building an apprenticeship program that trains the next generation of farmers and educators to expand farm-school projects and grow more local food for our schools and community.

- Conserving a taste of Bainbridge Island by making local sustainable agriculture more sustainable.

**This edible education program at Morales Farm is made possible through a partnership with:**

- Brian MacWhorter, Butler Green Farms
- Betsey Wittick, Laughing Crow Farm
- Karen Selvar, Bainbridge Island Farms
- The EduCulture Project at Global Source Education
- Wilkes Elementary School & Families
- Bainbridge Island School District Food & Nutrition Program
- Friends of the Farms
- City of Bainbridge Island
- Bainbridge One Call for All Campaign
- And through the generous support and contributions of many individuals in our community

**For more information, contact:**

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**Other Upcoming EduCulture Programs:**

***Farm Hands 2010 Summer Camps***

Three Week Long Summer Sessions for Youth Entering Grades K-6  
June 28-July 2 / July 5-9 / July 12-16, Full and Half Day Options  
Hosted at historic Suyematsu-Bentryn and Morales Farms, Bainbridge Island  
*A Locally Grown Farm and Food Experience!*

***4th Annual Summer Institute on Food, Farming, Culture and Education***

July 26-30, 2010  
Hosted at Historic Suyematsu-Bentryn Farms, Bainbridge Island  
*A special opportunity for K-12 and community based educators to build their professional repertoire!*

For more information, visit: [www.globalsourcenetwork.org](http://www.globalsourcenetwork.org)