

Farm-to-School Pilot Program

Chatham-Kent



A Program Administered by the Victorian Order of Nurses, Windsor-Essex Site





A program by OSNP-SW in collaboration
with the Chatham-Kent Health Unit.

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BACKGROUND

- Launched as a pilot program in 2014 in 8 schools
- Increased to 16 schools for the 2015 year, and 21 schools for the 2016 and 2017 years.
- Focus was on bringing local food into the classroom, creating a link to local producers/farmers and creating an online bulk buying system.
- Local stats supported the need



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PROGRAM

- In first year offered only vegetable and fruit
- 8 – 10 week snack program offered starting in March, serving product between 4-5 days per week with a set menu that was centrally purchased by the Regional Food and Logistics Coordinator
- In year 3 we offered a second item that was paid for by the CK Partnership
- Cost per child
- Recruited local farmers for the produce



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The Farm to School pilot project in Chatham-Kent has been made possible through the Newman's Own Foundation and the Grocery Foundation.



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MEET THE FARMERS



Sovereign Farms

We're Wes and Brenda Sovereign, and we run a vegetable greenhouse operation specializing in **grape tomatoes**. The plants are grown from February to December each year. Production starts in late April and goes through to Christmas. We seek to grow environmentally friendly grape tomatoes. Integrated pest management is used extensively in the greenhouse. A variety of wasps and mites are established in the greenhouse micro environment to control the unwanted pests. Bumble bees are brought into the greenhouse to assist in the pollination of the flowers.

130 Lutesville Rd,
Waterford, ON

www.sovereignfarms.ca



Tomato Facts

The tomato is
both a fruit, and a
vegetable

Grape tomatoes
aren't natural-
they were
developed in the
1990's

In the past, people
thought tomatoes
were poisonous-
they thought
eating one would
turn your blood to
acid!



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PARTNERS

- Chatham-Kent Student Nutrition Program
- School Boards
- Chatham-Kent Public Health Unit
- Chatham-Kent Food Policy Council
- Chatham-Kent Agricultural Development Committee
- Chatham-Kent Economic Development



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CHALLENGES

- Amount of food – often more than what was needed
- Spoilage
- Storage and Delivery
- Transportation Costs
- Evaluation

EVALUATION

- Partnered with University of Windsor – Sarah Wakefield to do an evaluation of the program.
- A postcard was sent home to parents asking them to do an online survey with the chance to win a bike
- Further evaluation on the program is being done by Jason Gilliand from University of Western Ontario throughout the Thames Valley Region.



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What better way to teach about healthy eating and learning about food than actually putting the food in their hands to wash, cut and eat everyday.



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NEXT STEPS

- Program will be rolled out to all partnerships in SW Region for the 2018 year.
- Online Bulk Purchasing Program will be reconsidered
- Funding model still being determined
- Developing curriculum supports that will be shared across the province.



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October 2016

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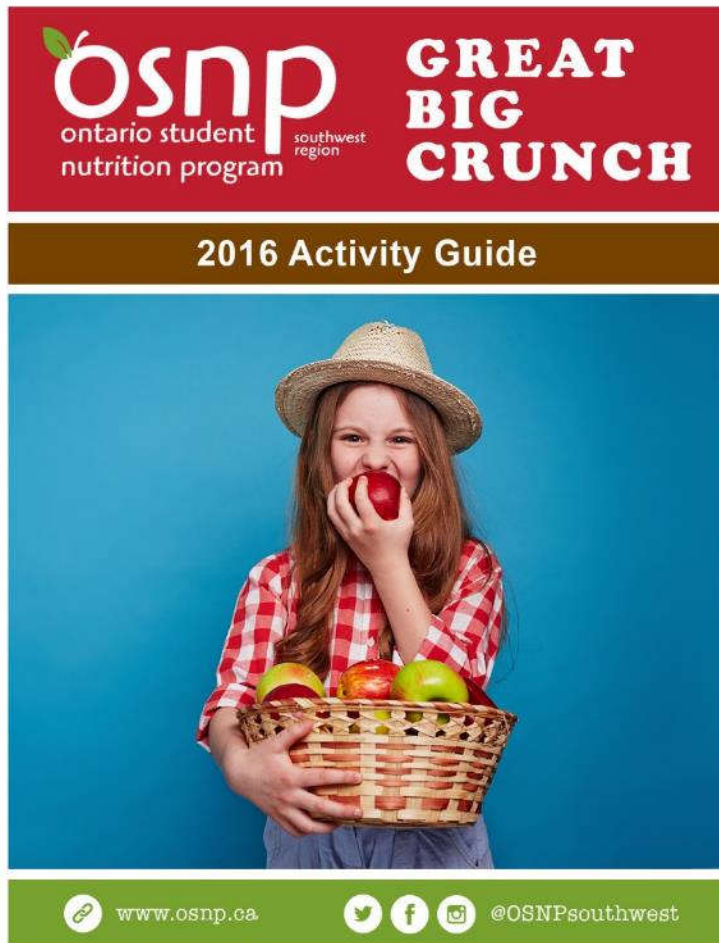





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- OSNP's Great Big Crunch Activity Guide was created with the permission of FoodShare.
- Activities were added and modified to strongly align with curriculum to encourage teacher uptake.
- This included science experiments, art projects, math challenges and a list of apple-themed books.
- Something for all grade levels.



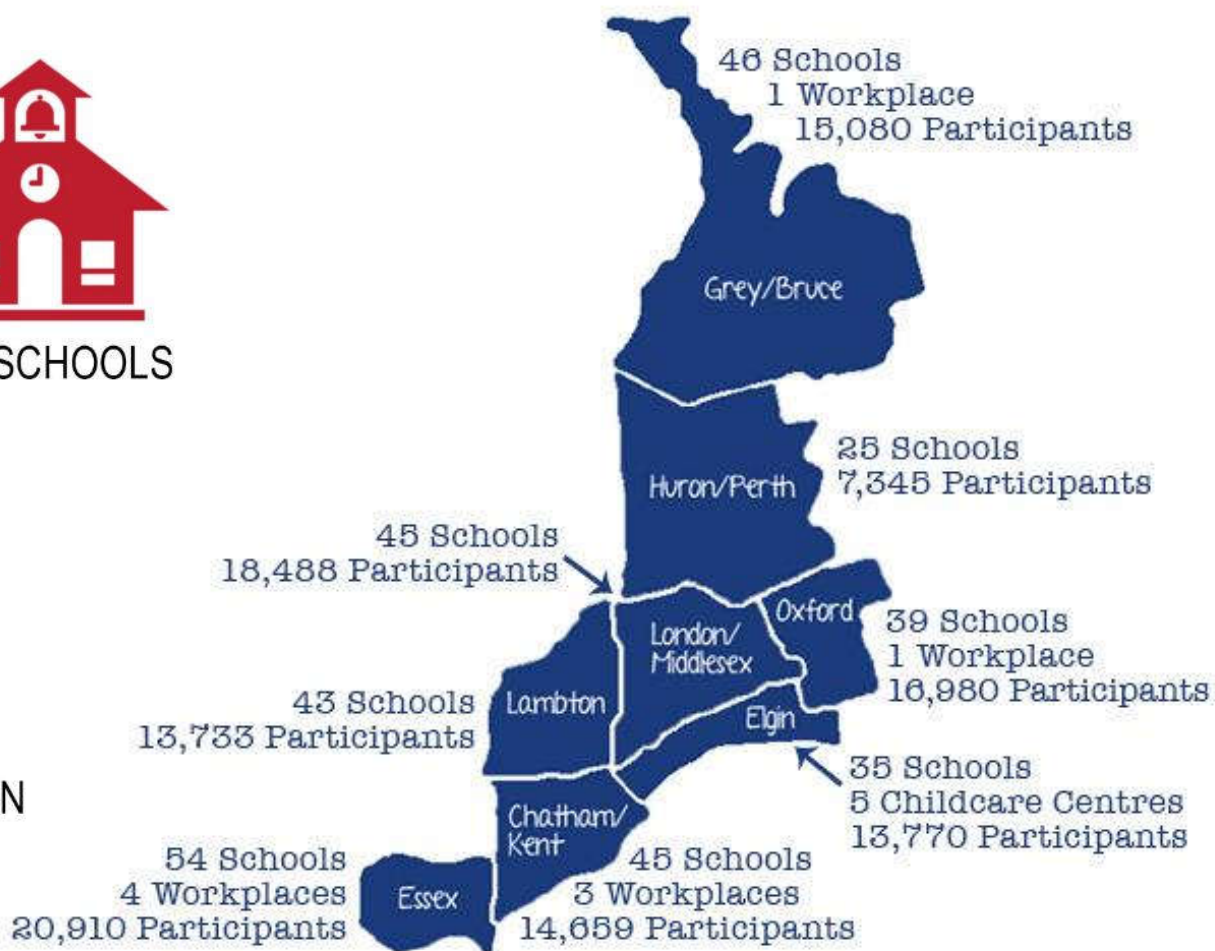
9 WORKPLACES



332 SCHOOLS



120,965 PARTICIPANTS
ACROSS SOUTHWESTERN
ONTARIO



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\$22,336 SPENT ON
LOCAL APPLES



SUPPORTS 20 LOCAL
APPLE GROWERS &
DISTRIBUTORS



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Ontario Student Nutrition Program – Southwest Region



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