

# Students study food and sustainability

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To cap off a trimester of studying food and sustainability, eighth-graders at the Community School in Sun Valley will hold an Appreciation Dinner for parents and invitees in Ketchum on Wednesday, Nov. 19.

There are also accommodations for members of the public who want to join the festivities, with a presentation from Nurture Idaho from 7-9 p.m. on Nov. 19 that includes author, educator and speaker Jeanne Nolan, who will share her extensive knowledge of organic gardening and healthy eating.

“Jeanne is a leader in the slow food movement, the sustainable food movement and a celebrated author,” said Kathryn Guylay, founder and executive director of Nurture Idaho. “Her recent book, ‘From the Ground Up: A Food Grower’s Education in Life, Love and the Movement That’s Changing the Nation,’ addresses in depth what students have been learning and will be very inspiring for the entire audience.”

The Community School has not disclosed where the dinner or the Nurture presentation will be held, except to say that the events will be at a private residence. According to a news release, tickets are free but space is limited and preregistration is required for the Nurture presentation. To attend, send an RVSP email to [mllewelyn@communityschool.org](mailto:mllewelyn@communityschool.org).

The Appreciation Dinner marks the end of a 12-week “Food Unit” study by Community School eighth-graders under the direction of teachers Naomi Goldberg and Scott Runkel, who each year challenge eighth-graders to learn where food comes from, how it is processed and its impact upon health and the environment.

Food unit studies are interdisciplinary. In English class, students studied Anna Lappe’s “Diet for a Hot Planet: Climate Crisis at the End of Your Fork and What You Can Do About it,” and corresponded with the author about how to make the book’s message meaningful to teenagers. In science class, the students examined climate change and took a weeklong trip to Glacier National



## Community School

Georgy Goodwin, a Community School eighth-grader in 2009, is shown here with a bowl of potato soup at an earlier “Food Unit” Appreciation Dinner.

Park in Montana to take a first-hand look at receding glaciers.

The students also visited local farms and evaluated their own eating habits and how they might be changed for health and environmental reasons.

“This Appreciation Dinner is a reflection of everything we’ve done in the food unit,” said eighth-grader Kate Connelly. “Guests will taste food from some of the farms we’ve visited, see exhibits of everything we’ve learned and hear from a speaker who is an expert on topics we’ve studied.”