

EcoArtists

A Scientific and Artistic Exploration in Nature

Pre Program Package

Included in this package

- Checklist for teachers in preparation for the EcoArtists
- Exemplary parent information sheet
- Student activity sheet – preparation for EcoArtists
- Tips for promoting a Litterless lunch
- EcoArtists curriculum links
- EcoArtists program schedule

Checklist in Preparation of the EcoArtists Program

- **Book buses** to the Arboretum Nature Centre at the University of Guelph to arrive at between 9:15am and 9:30am at the latest (program runs from (9:15- 9:30am to 2:30pm; adjustments can be made for earlier time tables)
- **Email a list** of students with **special needs, accommodations or allergies** to martin.lacelle@ugdsb.on.ca or call 519 821 7090 ext 400 at least a week in advance of attending the program
- **Invite parent volunteers** – suggested 4 parent volunteers per class
- **Split Class into 4** separate groups for the program – Earth, Air, Sun and Water
- **Prepare students** for the program – pre-program activities, what to bring, what to expect, litterless lunches, notification of photography of students
- Familiarize with Schedule of program – typical day program
- Bring a copy of student health information in case of an emergency
- **Questions?** Contact martin.lacelle@ugdsb.on.ca or call 519 821 7090 ext 400
- **Payment:** Bring a cheque for the payment of the program on your first day payable to John F. Ross Secondary School
- Parent Information Sheet – example of a letter to send to parents about the program
- **Contact Info:** Martin Lacelle
 - 519 821 7090 ext 400 or in case of an emergency cell: 519 546-4505
 - martin.lacelle@ugdsb.on.ca
- **Cancellation Policy** – Must contact EcoArtists program director a **minimum of 1 month** prior to attendance. After that date no refund is available.

Parent/Teacher Information Sheet

EcoArtists: A Scientific and Artistic Exploration in Nature

Each Spring and Fall, the Arboretum and the Secondary School program *DaVinci: Art, Science and the Environment* work with schools to assist learning by providing students with outdoor learning experiences. During this program, students engage in age-appropriate activities such as nature hikes, pond studies, natural art creations and active games.

- These fieldtrips support learning in the areas of science and technology, social studies, visual arts and written communication.

Field trip activities include:

- Hiking in local natural areas to experience the environment and get some good exercise
- Observation and identification of local plants and animals
- Active games involving running and obstacles
- Story telling and drama activities in natural settings
- Art activities involving painting, crafts and print making

Location and Photography

EcoArtists involves a two day field trip to the Arboretum Nature Centre at the University of Guelph. During the participation of the program, students will be taking photographs and being in photos for a web sharing page that students can visit after their participation in the EcoArtists' program. Please notify your school teacher if for some reason you do not wish your child to be in these photographs.

Parent Volunteers Welcome and Needed

You can support your children in their learning and exploration of this natural area by being a parent volunteer. The more the merrier. It's a great two days in the outdoors. You might be surprised what you learn! Please contact your child's teacher to volunteer.

Litterless Lunch

As part of the 'tread lightly' focus of the EcoArtists program we ask that each child attempt to bring a litterless lunch. The simple act of making a lunch with as little waste as possible can generate awareness around our dependency and responsibility to the earth. Here are a few quick tips to making this valuable experience easy:

- Re-use: use re-usable containers like plastic containers, thermoses, water bottles, lunch boxes, cloth bags, reusable utensils and sturdy plastic bags
- Re-duce: avoid tin foil, single use plastic bags, foam bowls and let nature package your food – bring bananas, oranges, apples and boiled eggs
- Recycle – if you happen to bring food in non-reuseable containers you can recycle them. Things like juice boxes, yogurt containers and pop cans can be recycled.
- Compost – bring your appetite! Only pack as much food as you can finish and compost any vegetable or fruit matter left over.

Visit the Arboretum

There is no charge to visit the Arboretum and there are many different habitats and communities to explore on your own. The entrance to the park is located on College Road near Victoria and there is plenty of parking. Visit

<http://www.uoguelph.ca/arboretum/index.html> for more information.

Student Activity Sheet – Are you ready to become an EcoArtist?

Be prepared for what Nature sends our way – Rain, Snow or Sun!



Draw and label a picture of a student ready for an all day outdoor program

What you need!

- Footwear that is sturdy and comfortable and that you can get wet
- Hat to keep the sun off or to keep warm (be aware of the weather forecast)
- Clothing in layers that can be removed as the day warms
- A waterproof outer layer to stay dry if it rains (rain jacket, umbrella, poncho)
- A hearty lunch and snack packed in reuseable containers (litterless lunch) with drinking water (1L)
- A backpack to keep your personal belongings (don't bring your textbooks)
- Don't bring: MP3 players, video games, cell phones, personal electronics

Tips for bringing a Litterless Lunch

pack a
LITTERLESS
LUNCH everyday!

HELP THE EARTH...WHILE YOU EAT

1 REDUCE

THE OVER-PACKAGED FOOD TRAP
PLASTIC, CARDBOARD, FOIL AND OTHER WASTEFUL WRAPPERS AND CONTAINERS END UP IN THE GARBAGE

AVOIDING THE TRAP IS EASY!
STEER CLEAR OF THE CAUSE:
SINGLE USE CARTONS, CANS AND PRE-PACKAGED SNACK FOODS

BULK UP!
CHOOSE TO BUY FOOD THAT IS NOT OVER PACKAGED LIKE DRIED FRUITS, NUTS AND LOTS OF OTHER YUMMY SNACKS AT A BULK FOOD STORE.



LET NATURE WRAP YOUR FOOD FOR YOU!
ORANGES, BANANAS AND HARD BOILED EGGS ALL COME WITH THEIR OWN HANDY PACKAGINGS!



2 REUSE

THE PERMANENT PACKAGING SOLUTION

- THERMOSES, WATER BOTTLES
- CLOTH NAPKINS
- REUSABLE PLASTIC CONTAINERS
- REUSABLE UTENSILS
- LUNCH BOXES, CLOTH BAGS

THE FEROCIOUS FOUR



PAPER PLASTIC FOAM FOIL

AVOID THE FEROCIOUS FOUR'S WEAPONS OF WASTE!

- PLASTIC SANDWICH BAGS, WRAP, SHOPPING BAGS, UTENSILS
- STYROFOAM CONTAINERS
- ALUMINIUM FOIL
- THROW AWAY PAPER BAGS AND NAPKINS

3 RECYCLE

WHAT TO DO IF A NON-REUSABLE SNEAKS IN TO YOUR LUNCH:

RECYCLE:

- JUICE BOXES
- POP CANS
- PLASTIC YOGURT AND PUDDING CONTAINERS
- CARDBOARD PACKAGING

REMEMBER:

★ RECYCLING IS A GREAT WAY TO REDUCE GARBAGE, BUT PROCESSING RECYCLABLES STILL TAKES UP LOTS OF ENERGY.



4 COMPOST

BRING YOUR APPÉTITE!
ONLY BRING AS MUCH FOOD AS YOU CAN FINISH!
...AND COMPOST LEFTOVERS



eco**schools**

Eco-Artists Curriculum and Associated Learning Opportunities

- **Science and Technology** – *Understanding Life Systems: Habitats and Communities*
 - A habitat is an area that provides plants and animals with what they need to survive and those plants and animals make up a community
 - When a habitat changes it affects plants and animals
 - Plants make their own food and animals get food from plants or other animals
 - People need plants and animals to live and can help or hurt them
- **Social Studies** - *Canada's Provinces, Territories, and Regions*
 - Every place has its own, unique plants, animals, landforms and waterways
 - The plants and animals and landforms in our area have different meaning to people
- **Visual Arts**
 - create two and three dimensional works of art that communicate ideas for specific purposes and audiences
 - identify the elements of design (colour, line, shape, form, space, texture)
- **Written Communication**
 - gather information and experiences about habitats and write for an intended purpose or audience

EcoArtists Program Schedule

Day 1		2	
9:30	Bus arrival – Introduction: welcome and active game	9:30	Bus arrival – Welcome to second day of exploration and investigation
9:45	Introduction to EcoArtists: exploration of art and science in nature	9:35	Third Habitat Rotation: Exploration of a local habitat.
10:15	Snack time – Student bring their own healthy snack	10:45	Snack time – Student bring their own healthy snack.
10:45	First Habitat Rotation: Exploration of a local habitat: In small groups students rotate through different local habitats including Woodland, Grassland, Wetland and Urban habitats participating in art and science related activities.	11:00	Final Habitat Rotation: Exploration of a local habitat.
12:00	Litterless Lunch – Students are introduced to the value of a litterless lunch through interactive dramatizations. Lunch is also time for free play, crafts and organized games.	12:15	Litterless Lunch – Students are challenged to decrease the amount of garbage they created as a group in comparison to the first day of the program. Students have time for free play, crafts and organized games.
1:00	Second Habitat Rotation: Exploration of a local habitat: In small groups students rotate through different local habitats including Woodland, Grassland, Wetland and Urban habitats participating in art and science related activities.	1:15	EcoArtists Closing Ceremonies: Students create a mural of each of the habitats and communities they explored, identifying key features, plants and animals. The group then consolidates learning in a final group activity drawing connections between each habitat.
2:15	First Day Closing Ceremony – students consolidate learning in a group activity		
2:45	Bus departure		Bus departure