

Connecting Children to their Outdoor Community



Philosophy about Outdoor Education

- Physical and hands on activity
- Emotional benefits
- Connection to the local community and the environment
- Promotes risk taking and personal growth
- Encourages curiosity and wonder in a place based setting
- Inclusive of all learners
- Links to the redesigned curriculum



Photo taken by Aubrey
student

Outward Bound 2017

- Every student in the school experienced outdoor community activities at the school and at Burnaby Lake
- Burnaby Lake stations: weaving First Nations ways of knowing, storytelling with fairy doors, nature photography, local animals and adaptations
- School stations: planting a bulb, community walk, nature story and activity
- Goal: to create a sense of community within the school and provide the opportunity for every student to experience a range of outdoor local activities

How do we know that outdoor education makes a difference for student learning?

- We asked our students if they prefer to learn indoors or outdoors more. Students overwhelmingly said outdoors
- We then asked our students why they prefer learning outdoors. Some answers included: "It is more relaxing." "I like breathing the fresh air." "I can think more clearly outside."
- We created a bulletin board showcasing some of the student voices and since then have noticed a dramatic increase in the use of our outdoor classroom space

“Going outside opens the doors to learning new things.” Michelle, grade 3



Photo taken by Aubrey
student

“Going outside makes me happy and it makes the world colourful.” Marcus, kindergarten



“Going outside gives you freedom to think. It’s peaceful. You can use your imagination and build with it.” Austin, grade 3



“Water...it’s moving and changing. And it’s like the duck’s home. We should keep it clean.”

Neha, grade 1



Photo taken by Aubrey
student

Going forward...

- Continue to grow our school outdoor classroom space with the students, staff, and our families
- Whole school outdoor day in the winter at Mt. Seymour
- Continue to create connections with our students to the local outdoor environment through weekly visits to the forest across the street, cultivation of our school garden, and monthly visits to Burnaby Lake
- Encourage others to share in our outdoor experiences in order to bridge gaps within the local community
- Continue to collect targeted data on the effects of learning outdoors and how it impacts our children

*“Go and open the door. Maybe outside there’s a tree, or
a wood, a garden, or a magic city.”*

The Door by Miroslav Golub

