



# The Valley Voice

Forest Valley Outdoor Education Centre's Newsletter



## Forest Valley Facts








- One of 10 TDSB Outdoor Education Centres
- Collective goal: to deliver curriculum-based programs which connect students to the natural world
- Welcomed 902 classes or 18 500+ students in 2017 / 2018
- 1 000 TDSB staff work together to plan visits
- 1 800+ volunteers help visiting classes each year

## Get Outside this Fall

*Go on an autumn adventure together!*

- Go apple picking
- Take a hayride
- Visit a pumpkin patch
- Visit a corn maze
- Collect and press autumn leaves
- Stuff a scarecrow
- Have a bonfire
- Make a leaf pile and jump in!

**Hike and see how many signs of fall you can find!**

			
Acorns	Birds Flying in a 'V'	Burdock Seeds (Burs)	Coloured Leaves
			
Goldenrod Flowers and Galls	Jewelweed	Maple Seeds (Samaras)	Milkweed Pods and Seeds
			
Pinecones	Queen Anne's Lace	Squirrels Making Shelters (Dreys)	Staghorn Sumac Berry Clusters

## Magnet Contest

Our **thank you magnets** help us appreciate all our visiting teachers and volunteers each year.

TDSB students are invited to submit an original, hand-drawn picture which represents their experience at Forest Valley. One winning design will be chosen and featured in this newsletter. All entries will be displayed at our Annual Maple Syrup Open House.

Visit our website to learn how to enter.  
**Deadline for entries is February 1, 2019**



## Take Action

**Forest Valley is a Platinum EcoCentre**

Thank you to all of our visiting classes for helping us show respect to nature every day.

**Now try these environmental actions at home:**

- Bring a waste-free lunch to school every day
- Turn off the tap when you brush your teeth
- Turn off the lights when you leave a room
- Walk or bike to school
- Get outside and spend time in nature
- Share your nature knowledge with others



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[schoolweb.tdsb.on.ca/forestvalley/Home.aspx](http://schoolweb.tdsb.on.ca/forestvalley/Home.aspx)



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## Maple Syrup Open House

**Please join us for Forest Valley's Annual Event!**

Saturday April 6th, 2019

10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

Hike the trails, visit the sugar shack, explore the displays, and taste maple goodness!

### Pancakes!

available until 1:30 p.m.

\$5 for 2 pancakes, maple syrup, 1 drink (exact change only)



*Please bring a non-perishable food donation for our food drive canoe*

## Go Squirrely!



**Grey Squirrel**



**Red Squirrel**

**Eats:** buds, nuts, larvae

**Eaten by:** fox, coyote

**Home:** nest (drey)

**Winter:** less active

**Hides nuts:** many places

**Fact:** can find nuts under 30cm of snow

**Eats:** nuts, cones, berries

**Eaten by:** mink, hawk

**Home:** nest (drey)

**Winter:** less active

**Hides nuts:** one place

**Fact:** have special vision to leap between trees

## Global Competencies

### Why Focus on Global Competencies?

TDSB's *Vision for Learning* focuses on achievement, equity and well-being and uses Global Competencies (GC's) as a framework for deeper learning. This year, we're supporting students to develop GC's along with the skills, traits and attributes to succeed in our globalized, information-based, society:

- 1) Collaboration and Leadership;
- 2) Communication;
- 3) Creativity, Inquiry and Entrepreneurship;
- 4) Critical Thinking and Problem Solving;
- 5) Global Citizenship and Character.

### What We Do to Support Global Competencies

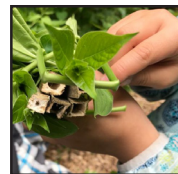
- Students collaborate to solve real-world problems creatively
- Activities include experiential, inquiry-based learning
- Students share and communicate knowledge and skills while exploring

### What You Can Do to Support Global Competencies

- Help your child understand how each of us can make a difference
- Model ethical, responsible action: get involved in local & global initiatives
- Relate to the environment and living things in mindful, respectful ways

## Valley Vignettes

### Snapshots of visiting students learning outdoors.



Students use Cup Plant stalks to create "bee condo" habitats for pollinators while learning about strong and stable structures.



Students measure dissolved oxygen levels in the Don River while inquiring about sustainability and human impacts on the Don watershed.



Students compare traditional and current survival practices and then apply their learning by trying various fire-starting skills.



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