Prepare for Pollinators
Did you know that butterflies, moths, bees, wasps, birds, bats, ladybugs, and beetles are all pollinators? They help over 90% of flowering plants and 33% of food crops reproduce!

Pollinators are threatened by habitat loss, non-native species, pesticides, pollution and climate change.

Watch for these local pollinators this spring and learn more about what you can do to help protect them.

**Eastern Tiger Swallowtail**
*Papilio glaucus*

**Honey Bee**
*Apis Mellifera*

**Ruby-Throated Hummingbird**
*Archilochus colubris*

Get Outside Month
May is “Get Outside” Month at the TDSB!
Teachers are introducing theme-based, curriculum-connected activities for each school day of the month.

http://schoolweb.tdsb.on.ca/toes/Get-Outside-Lessons

These lessons are designed to support learning outdoors both at school and in the community. They focus on inquiry, active citizenship, and making connections to the real world.

Follow us on TWITTER @forestvalleyOEC for daily lesson plans beginning on May 1st.

Enjoy spring with your family and friends.

- Ride a bike
- Take a hike
- Plant something
- Stargaze
- Go on a picnic
- Visit a farmer’s market

Valley Vignettes
Snapshots of visiting students learning outdoors.

Applying their knowledge of the basic needs of animals, students make pinecone feeders to help overwintering birds survive the winter when there is a lack of available food.

A student tries carrying sap buckets using a yoke at our Early Settler Maple Syrup Display. Students learn about maple syrup production techniques of Early Settlers and Indigenous peoples through inquiry and direct experience.

One of our winter co-op students, Junee Grewal, models how to use a GPS device to inventory and tag our Sugar Maple trees so we can track sap production in our Maple Sugar Bush.

Outdoor Safety Tips
Stay safe while playing outdoors with these simple tips:

**Tick Awareness**
- wear long pants and tuck pant legs into socks
- wear lightweight, long-sleeved shirts that fit tightly around the wrists
- avoid hiking through heavy brush—stick to trails, and stay out of long grass
- examine yourself for ticks after being outdoors

**Sun Protection**
- apply sunscreen SPF 30+ every few hours
- wear long-sleeved shirts, sunglasses and a hat
- stay hydrated—drink lots of water
- limit mid-day exposure to the sun
- stay in the shade

**Mosquito Manoeuvers**
- apply approved mosquito repellent
- wear long-sleeved shirts and long pants
- wear light or brightly coloured clothes (mosquitoes are attracted to dark colours)
- empty outdoor standing water at home

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A Sweet Thank You

Thank you to our wonderful students, teachers, friends, family and community members who made our 2019 Maple Syrup Open House another tremendous success!

This event would not have been possible without our team of dedicated staff and 50+ volunteers who spent their day welcoming over 1000 guests.

Check our website for next year’s date!

Global Competencies

TDSB’s Vision for Learning includes a focus on Global Competencies as a framework for deeper learning. Here’s one way we support this:

**Urban Gardening Experience**

Gardening lets students engage with and manage a nature-focused, on-going, community activity.

**Garden Activities Include:**
- Vegetable Part Matching Game
- Building Healthy Soils Exploration
- Creating/Spreading Seed Balls
- Becoming a Compost Doctor

**This supports Global Competencies in the following ways:**
- Supports service to community and teaches “reciprocity”
- Deepens knowledge/understanding of Indigenous perspectives
- Connects students with the land
- Fosters awareness and stewardship
- Shows power to make a difference
- Solves real & meaningful problems (increases green space, food security)
- Inquiry-based development of gardening skills
- Students co-construct knowledge of social, physical, environmental and ecological importance of plants

The Winning Magnet

Our **Thank You Magnets** help us appreciate all our visiting teachers and volunteers each year.

Congratulations to **Jason from Zion Heights M.S.**, who designed this year’s winning magnet!

Check our website for details about next year’s contest.

Take Action!

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

At Forest Valley, we hope to inspire Global Citizenship (a TDSB Global Competency) by demonstrating how small actions can create big change.

**At home, small things make a big change too:**
- Bring reusable bags to the grocery store
- Carry a reusable water bottle
- Turn off devices and play outside
- Get an indoor house plant to clean the air
- Walk or ride to school
- Try Meatless Mondays

At home, small things make a big change too:

For more info:
- [Forest Valley Outdoor Education Centre](http://schoolweb.tdsb.on.ca/forestvalley/Home.aspx)
- Follow us on TWITTER @forestvalleyOEC
- forestvalleyoutdooredcentre@tdsb.on.ca
- 60 Blue Forest Drive, Toronto 416-395-5110