

SOES ECO-SCHOOL NEWS

What's new? What's green? Events to get involved in at home or school.



Our New Greenhouse

With the generous financial support of a grant from the Canadian Wildlife Federation Foundation we are building a greenhouse at SOES. It's been a while in the planning stage but the ground is now prepped and the makings of the greenhouse have arrived and before long it will be built and in use. We are so excited to extend our growing season and add to the fresh food we can eat. It will also become a butterfly vivarium and add new program possibilities as we learn to care for butterflies from egg to release. Stay tuned as we increase our programming options and also we hope to grow pollinator plants that you can plant at your own schools.

website updates

This year we have been updating our website with the aim of assisting teachers in making the most out of their visit to SOES. Look for learning goals, curriculum connections, program descriptions, pre and post lessons including live links and learning resources. Explore the different programs offered in each theme and working together with your SOES contact create a schedule that best meets the needs of your class.

[SOES website](#)



Plantwatch

SOES continues to encourage citizen science engagement this year through PlantWatch. We chose to watch the flowering times of specific species at the school~ Spring Beauties, Purple Violets and Tamaracks~ and then reported the dates to researchers. This information is then used to identify ecological changes over time that may be affecting our environment. Our information gets added to data from across Canada on a Web map. Can you get involved at your school too? See what species to look for at <https://www.naturewatch.ca/plantwatch/>

Events and activities for your school

TOES Get outside Month - May

Not sure what to do with your class outside. Here's a whole bank of lessons brought to you by TOES with all the prep, instructions and follow-up ideas you need to take your class outside each day for the month of May. Included is an archive of lessons from the past four years. This year's activities are full of STEM activities. Have fun and get outside!
<http://schoolweb.tdsb.on.ca/toes/GetOutsideLessons.aspx>



Worm watch

Empower your students to become citizen scientists by joining this national monitoring program (part of NatureWatch) that helps to identify ecological changes potentially affecting our environment. Have fun exploring the soil ecosystem and how worms are an indicator of soil biodiversity. All the tools and resources you need can be found at [Worm Watch](#)



30x30 Challenge

For the past six years, the David Suzuki Foundation has invited Canadians to join the 30x30 Nature Challenge. Let's spend a little less time in front of screens and get into the nature habit of spending 30 minutes outside each day for 30 days. There are lots of ideas on what to do for your 30 minutes outside and what a great way to improve our mental health and well-being.
<http://30x30.davidsuzuki.org/>



Bike to School week May 29 - June 2, 2017

[Bike to School Week](#) is a celebration of active transportation and biking and builds on the success of [Bike Month](#) (May 29th – June 30th). Schools participate in Bike to School Week by encouraging their students to walk and roll to school, and by holding events both inside and outside the classroom to promote the benefits of active transportation and biking. Visit the [Getting Started web page](#) for ideas on Safety activities in the classroom, and Safety and skills activities in the schoolyard.



Tweet Us Your Eco Stuff
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