

# SOES ECO SCHOOL NEWS

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



## New SOES T-shirt

Celebrating Canada's new National Bird the Gray Jay or Whiskeyjack (from the Cree Wisakedjak), SOES is featuring a new t-shirt. Indigenous visual artist [Mark V. Nadjiwan](#) of [Three Trees Art](#) has generously allowed us to use his beautiful painting on the t-shirt. There is much symbolism in the painting and the shirt includes the story of Whiskeyjack's relationship to humans and how climate change and humankind are affecting the bird. The importance of thinking beyond our own welfare and ensuring the wellbeing of the next seven generations is also reflected in the design.

## Adopt a Road

SOES staff joined together this fall to pick up litter from a stretch of highway just before Kearney, which we have adopted to maintain. Unfortunately there were many bags full of garbage collected that people had thrown out their car windows while passing. The good news was that a huge portion of that was recyclable so the next stop was the local waste transfer station where we sorted it out for its next use. Are you helping to pick up litter in your schoolyard?



## SOES Seed Library

By saving seeds collected from our gardens we are working towards preserving biodiversity and empowering students by having them directly involved in helping to preserve some species here at SOES. Saving seeds from year to year allows plants to make small genetic adaptations each growing season, becoming more resilient. Some adapt to our early frosts, others might get used to the insects we have. Lastly, let's not forget how much kids love getting their hands in the dirt, and how delicious those veggies taste. Thank you to all the schools who have helped make our gardens flourish!

## LE.N., Learning Environment in Nature

Our natural play park is underway...with over \$21,000 in donations already. Help us reach our goal of funding this new great natural play space for our students. For more information and how to donate please go to our [webpage](#).



### Project Feederwatch

Once again at SOES students are becoming citizen scientists as they count birds that come to our feeders twice a week from November to April and send that information in to Bird Studies Canada.

### The Christmas Bird Count for Kids

[Find an event](#) hosted in Toronto to help young birders learn how to use binoculars and identify birds to add to the count.

### Great Canadian Backyard Bird Count February 17-20

Be a citizen scientist and become part of this global bird count. Birdwatchers of all ages count birds to create a real time snapshot of where birds are in the world. [how to get started](#)

## Events for your school

### winter walk Day

Across Canada on Wednesday, February 1, 2017 walk to school for daily physical activity, a healthier environment, safer streets, making friends and ... having fun!

Can't walk to school? Hold a [Winter Walk Day](#) during school. Walk to the local skating rink for a skate or hold a Winter carnival in the school yard at lunch.



### world wetland Day

February 2, 2017 is a day to celebrate and learn about wetlands. They are nature's shock absorbers, like a bank saving water and preventing droughts and floods. Find out more about [wetlands!](#)

### The our Canada Project

Is your class working on a project to make a better Canada? This project through Learning for a Sustainable Future features an interactive map where students can pin their actions or action projects including pictures and text. What a great way to share your successes or be inspired by others. [OCP](#)



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