

Welcome to our Outdoor Education Program!

At River Heights Public School we love to get outside! As part of the ministry of education's mandate for outdoor programming in the Kindergarten class, all of our Kindergarten classes participate in our Outdoor Education Program on a daily basis. The aim of the program is to learn about the world around us, and play within it. Your child will have the opportunity to play and learn outside: exploring, investigating, building, creating, and much more. They will be involved in a wide variety of experiences that encompass math, science, dramatic play, construction, art and water/sensory activities to name a few. These activities also help students to develop critical thinking, problem solving and cooperation skills as well as a love and respect for the natural environment.

Miss Allen is the designated outdoor education teacher and she, along with an Early Childhood Educator, will be outside with each class to help facilitate the program. All of our Kindergarten students will be outside at some point throughout the day for at least 40 minutes, in addition to being outside for their lunch recess time of another 40 minutes. In order to be comfortable all students will need to be **dressed appropriately for the weather**. We aim to be outside every day - unless it is pouring rain or the wind chill is too cold. Your child may come home muddy or dirty some days – and that just means that they had a lot of fun learning and exploring! Please send your child in clothes that can get dirty, and that they are comfortable in.

Our program runs year round including during the winter months. You can help your child enjoy the great outdoors by ensuring that they come to school dressed appropriately. Items of clothing to consider:

*Fall/Spring: *Please note that we will not be bringing umbrellas outside for outdoor education*

- Rain boots, running shoes, or sandals with straps (no flip flops please)
- Rain coat, Sweater
- Hat
- Sunscreen (please apply at home)

Winter:

- Winter boots (rain boots do not provide enough warmth)
- Snow pants
- Winter coat
- Waterproof mittens (if possible please send in an extra pair in case one gets wet)
- Warm hat
- Warm clothing underneath their coat/snowpants
- Extra socks

Please feel free to contact Miss Allen (s.allen@tvdsb.ca) if you have any questions or concerns about our outdoor education program. If you have any items that you would like to donate to our program please let us know. These could include interesting building materials, such as PVC piping, eaves troughing and milk crates, as well as old wagons. We also welcome donations of rain boots and winter boots as well as warm clothing (coats, snowpants, mittens, hats).

Thank you for your support of our outdoor education program. We look forward to a wonderful year learning outside together!

The Kindergarten Team