

# TAKE ME OUTSIDE *for learning*

Dear Nesika Families,



Our school will be using the outdoors as a regular learning space this year. We are excited to be taking part in the **Take Me Outside for Learning Challenge**; a school year long commitment to teaching and learning outside. We are writing to inform you what this will look like for our school.

There is a growing amount of research-based evidence that indicates when we provide children with the chance to **spend regular time in nature, they are happier, healthier and better learners**. We are living in a time that increasingly needs children and youth to feel and be empowered to help keep this planet healthy.

**We will be designing lessons based on BC Curriculum, to teach in and around the schoolyard and/or our surrounding community.** It is important that students understand that when we are taking a lesson outside, this is not free play or recess time. We will be working hard on working with students on building routine, respect, positive behaviour and approach to learning throughout September so students get into the groove of productive learning outdoors on a regular basis!

**To assist your child in feeling comfortable and ready to learn outdoors, please help them to choose clothes and footwear that are appropriate for the weather each day. We do have some clothing to borrow if needed. We believe there is no bad weather - it just depends how we prepare for it.**

Some classes may have their outdoor learning on a day like 'Wilderness Wednesdays' or 'Forest Fridays', some may start their days outside, and some may commit to time interspersed in the week depending on activities. School schedule changes or weather conditions happen, and all classroom schedules are flexible to change. Our school's outdoor learning space include an outdoor learning structure, picnic tables, an outdoor chalkboard, our nearby forest and sometimes students will be asked to bring our class set of clipboards outside. We also have spaces close by that we can walk to. Students are always supervised during outdoor learning, and staff use a sign out book in the office to indicate where they are.

If you have any questions about our outdoor learning or your child's individual needs, please don't hesitate to contact us! Thanks for your support, and let us know if you're ever interested in joining our students outside!

"What's important is that children have an opportunity to bond with the natural world, to learn to love it and feel comfortable in it, before being asked to heal its wounds... If we want children to flourish, to become truly empowered, let us allow them to love the earth before we ask them to save it."  
-David Sobel

Yours in education,  
Holly Zurak - directrice/Principal