

OUTDOOR LEARNING

West Bench early primary students will have the opportunity to take their learning outdoors this year. For more information about this project, please contact the West Bench principal, Mr. Darryl Tenisci.

Register your

child today!

Kindergarten 2018



*West Bench Elementary School
School District No. 67*

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WEST BENCH ELEMENTARY'S OUTDOOR LEARNING

West Bench Elementary
School



*Working Together For Student
Success*

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RATIONALE



The **West Bench Outdoor Learning Program** is designed to embed the benefits of being outside with the need to incorporate

regular healthy, active learning and social interactions for our early primary students.

Children will be involved in thoughtfully planned learning experiences which promote **discovery, play, exploration, environmental stewardship and the Aboriginal ways of learning and knowing.**

The program will take place on the rural setting surrounding the West Bench Elementary School, as well as in the classroom, on a daily basis. All students will participate in carefully designed activities that support their **intellectual, emotional, social, artistic, aesthetic and physical development**, just as in our regular Kindergarten classrooms.

Goals and Objectives

Students who are part of the West Bench Outdoor Learning program will spend a significant portion of each day outdoors. **Children will:**

- ◇ Engage in rich education experiences that meet the BC renewed curriculum
- ◇ Discover and explore trails and natural bench land environments
- ◇ Explore local ways of learning and knowing
- ◇ Learn through purposeful exploration and play both outdoors and indoors
- ◇ Foster inquiry skills that facilitate intellectual and language development
- ◇ Experience opportunities that nurture social-emotional learning, self-regulation and positive peer relationships
- ◇ Learn the importance of caring and respect for nature



Educational Value and Evidence of Success

We all care about the well-being of our students and want to provide a positive environment in which students are **healthy and motivated and learning content in creative ways.** There is an extensive and ever-**growing body of research** that illustrate the benefits of taking students outside to learn. A number of studies have documented increased school performance through outdoor education as it relates to test scores, enhanced attitude about school, and improved behaviour (*Charles, C., 2010 & Coyle, K.J., 2010*). Learning outdoors help children develop a sense of self, independence, confidence, creativity, decision-making and problem-solving skills, empathy towards others, motor skills, self-discipline and initiative (*Munoz, S.A., 2009, & Chawla, L., 2006*). Don't forget that it's also **engaging and fun!**

There are numerous outdoor learning projects taking place around BC, Canada and the world, and **now in the West Bench community!**