



Nature@School

A photo journal of the pilot project and updates on school division wide implementation

Shelagh Pyper • Nov. 20, 2018 • Inaugural Calgary Play Summit

Why Nature Play?

COMPETENCIES

DESCRIPTIONS, INDICATORS AND EXAMPLES

COMPETENCIES

Competencies are combinations of knowledge, skills and attitudes that students develop and apply for successful learning, living and working. They emphasize aspects of learning that apply within and across all subject areas. Students develop competencies through programs of study learning outcomes. Alberta's Kindergarten to Grade 12 curriculum promotes development of the following competencies, which are streamlined expressions of the competencies in the *Ministerial Order on Student Learning* (#001/2013):

CRITICAL THINKING

COMMUNICATION

PROBLEM SOLVING

COLLABORATION

MANAGING INFORMATION

CULTURAL AND GLOBAL CITIZENSHIP

CREATIVITY AND INNOVATION

PERSONAL GROWTH AND WELL-BEING

Nature@SCHOOL

Why @School ??

- Go Where Kids Are
- Nature Play is educational – it triggers their curiosity and desire to learn
- ↑ executive function, communication, critical thinking and problem solving skills, competencies we want our learners to have and expect them to use in the classroom
- Deep play in nature leaves children better able to focus again in the classroom and deal with life's stresses



Why Outdoor Learning?

Outdoor learning is very motivating for students, and naturally provides the project and inquiry based learning that educators are moving towards. Students will observe a novel situation or living creature that inspires and motivates a project based lesson with connections to many school subjects.

- ▶ Increased academic achievement
- ▶ Decreased discipline problems
- ▶ Provides concrete experiences to clarify abstract concepts
- ▶ Motivating for the reluctant learner
- ▶ Adds variety to teaching and learning, renewed enthusiasm for students as well as teachers
- ▶ Improved understanding

What Does Playful Nature Education Look Like?

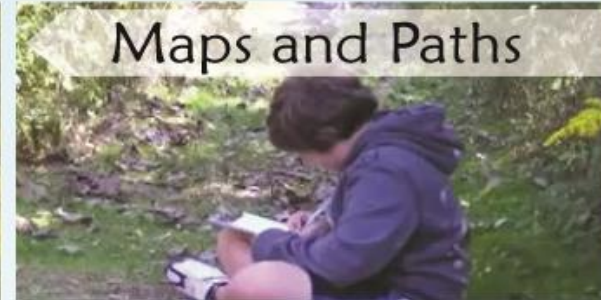
Special Places



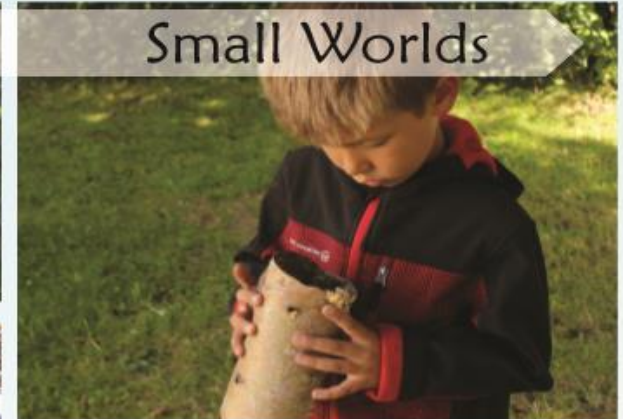
Adventure



Maps and Paths



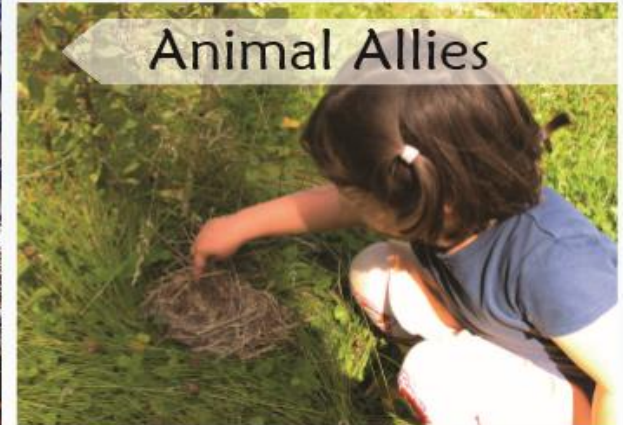
Small Worlds



Fantasy and Imagination



Animal Allies



Hunting and Gathering







What is Nature@School?

Nature@School

Connecting schools to the Nature nearby and to research and knowledge in nature play.

Our Mission is to educate teachers about the benefits of playful NATURE EDUCATION and educational nature PLAY.

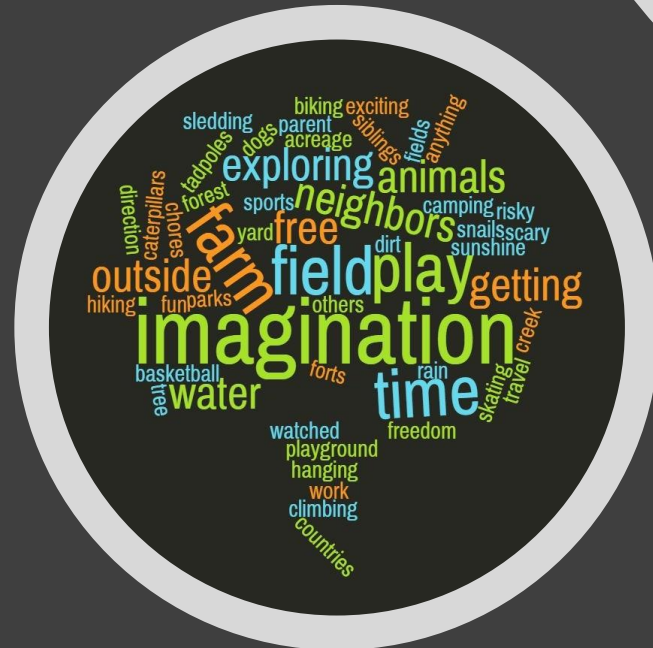
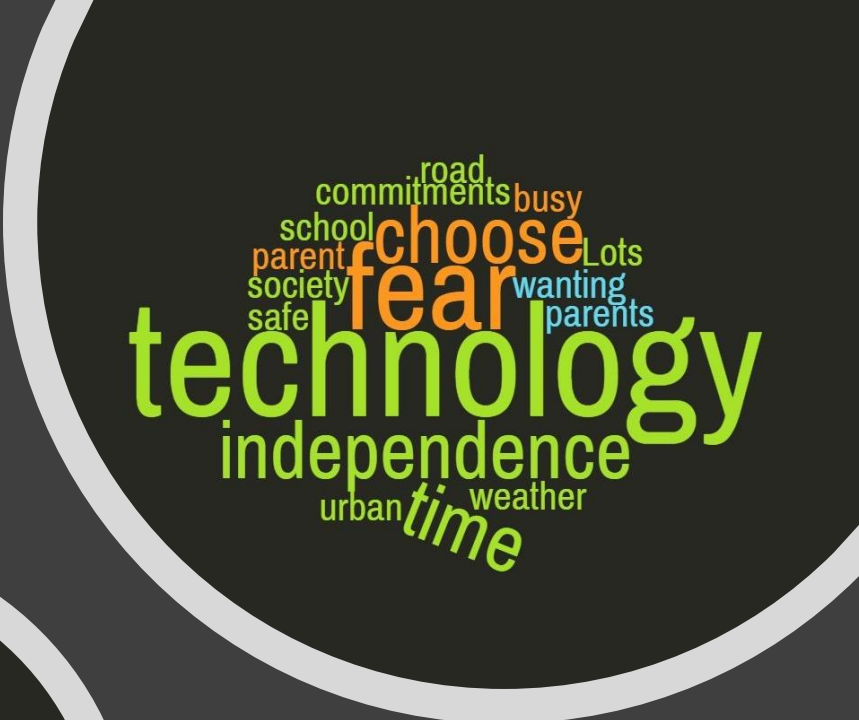


The initiative takes a holistic approach to change including:

1. Education and Public Awareness,
2. Student, Parent and Teacher Consultation
3. Training and Resources,
4. Schoolyard Assessment and Enrichment,
5. Policy and Best Practice,
6. Principles in Action,
7. Observation and Evaluation

1. Education and Public Awareness

- Parent Education Nights
- Parent Survey (Google and hard copy)





QUESTIONS RESPONSES

What are your thoughts on Nature-Based Programming at school?

Help us understand where your thoughts are with Meridian Heights taking on a nature-based focus, especially starting in our younger grades.

Email address *

Valid email address

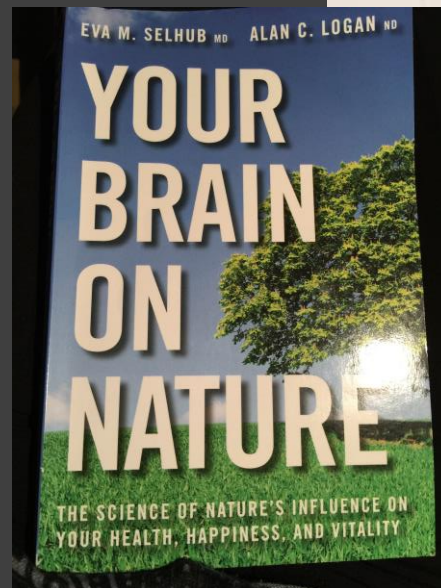
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Did you get a chance to visit our gym display on October 10 or 11?

- + (Add)
- Tt (Text)
- Image icon
- Video icon
- Horizontal lines icon

1. Education and Public Awareness

- Posters and display in the schools
- Book study



The Benefits of Outdoor Play

Children

move more,

sit less,

and **play longer.**



Kids learn to balance **risky play** and their own **safety.**



Active lifestyle associated with improved **blood pressure, cardiorespiratory, and musculoskeletal fitness.**

Increased **resilience,**

self-regulation,

and skills for dealing with **stress.**



Canadian experts from 14 organizations reviewed the best available evidence and released a Position Statement that **access to active play in nature and outdoors—with its risks—is essential for healthy child development.** They recommend **increasing children's opportunities for self-directed outdoor play at home, at school, in the community and in nature.** *Learn more at <http://bit.ly/position-on-play>*



1. Education and Public Awareness

- Active School Transit
- Pedestrian Parade



- Benefits of Nature Play and Outdoor Learning
- Schoolyard Enhanced Learning in Winter

2. Training and Resources

2. Training and Resources

Teaching the 4 Elements

Teaching the 4 Elements

by Shelagh Pyper



Developed thanks to support from:





2. Training and Resources

Mentorship

2. Training and Resources

- Connecting to concepts in the new curriculum through lived experience





3. Schoolyard Assessment and Enrichment

- Assessment Tool for the Creation of Outdoor Play Spaces with a Sense of Wonder
- Example Projects:
 - Outdoor Classroom
 - New destinations
 - Snow ball targets
 - Christmas tree forts
 - Dry creek bed
 - Outdoor Music Station
 - Mud Kitchens
 - Loose Parts



Meridian Heights Before



Meridian Heights After



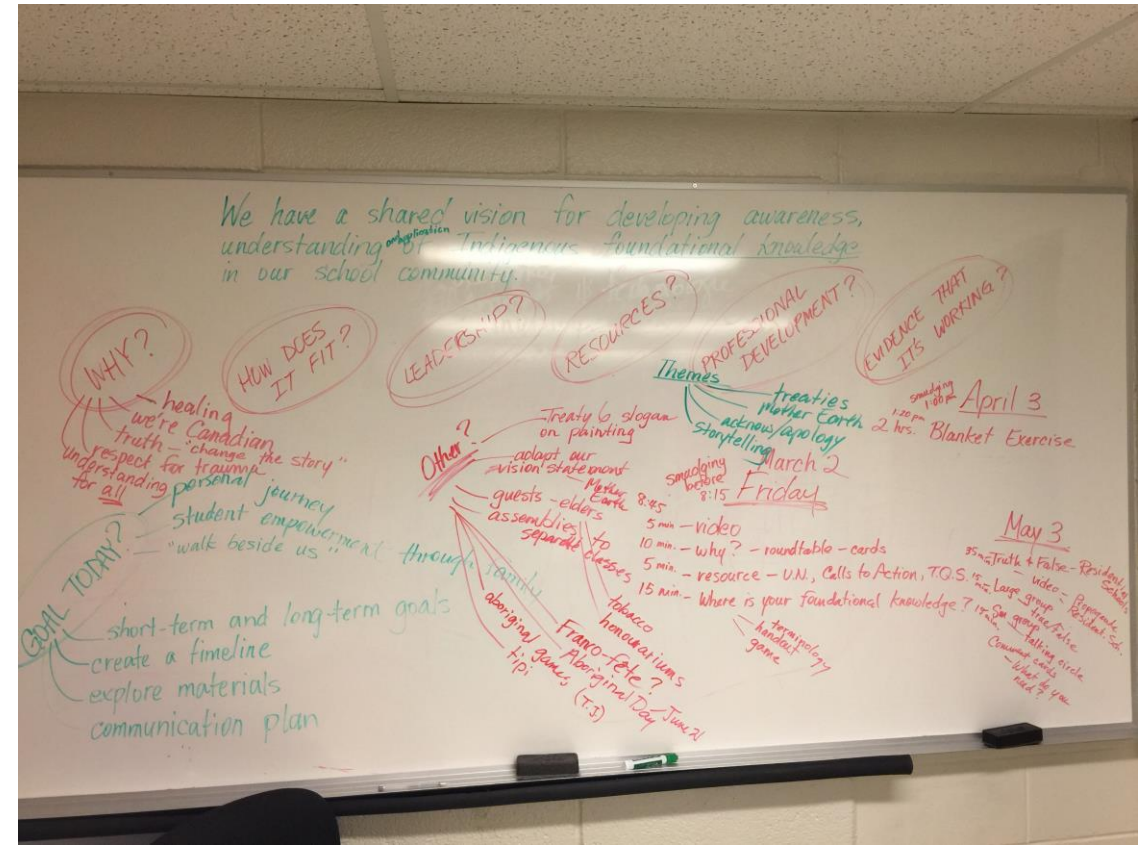
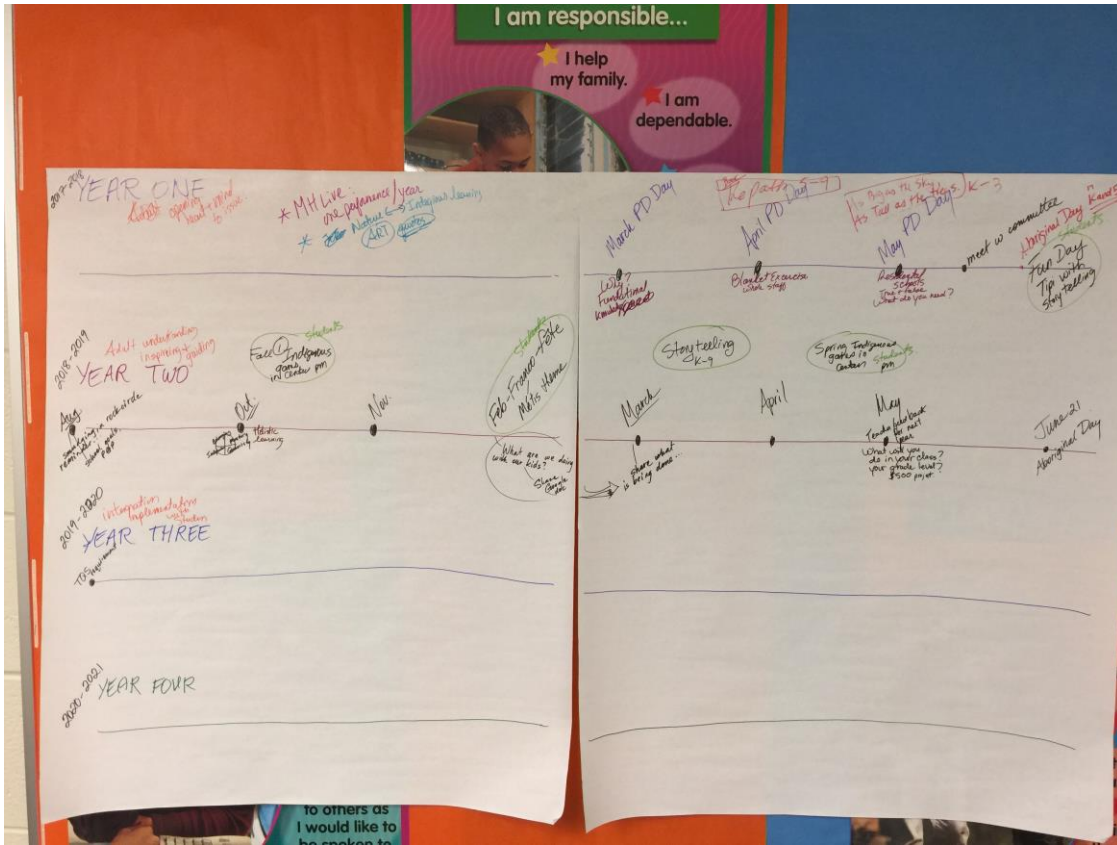


Policy and Best Practice

- Discussions with Early Ed Department, Risk Management, Facilities, Wellness and Indigenous
- Parent letters
- Strategic Plan
- Think Tank

Policy and Best Practice

Think Tank Meeting



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QUESTIONS RESPONSES 8

Outdoor Classroom?

We earned a grant from the TD Environmental Fund to build our Outdoor Classroom. Help us communicate our obligations for the grant.

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Image title



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Next Steps

- Evaluation
- Action Research Project
- ABC's of Nature Play
- Nature Nearby Grade 6 science field trips
- More schools

