



# Greening the Glen

Go Green Go! This is the 3<sup>rd</sup> and final installment of our annual newsletter as we're beginning the final phase of Forest Glen's Learning Grounds project. It's been amazing watching the school grounds transform from simple tarmac and fields to an immersive natural play & learning environment including an outdoor classroom, a wooden bridge, a beautiful accessible sand box and other features, surrounded by armour stone seating and 17 new shade trees. Read on to learn about what's planned for Phase 3, other Greening initiatives taking place and some important dates to mark down! - Forest Glen Greening Committee

## "Learning Grounds" Project

### What is being planned for Phase 3?

- Low wooden log bridge
- Climbing log jam
- 8 posts to run around and build Structures & forts
- Launch by **Fall 2017!**



### How will it be funded?

In addition to fundraising, the Greening Committee was successful in receiving grants from TD FEF and the Township of Wilmot. A BIG thank you!



TD Friends of the Environment Foundation

and



Welcome to the Township of WILMOT

### What are the benefits for Learning Grounds Projects?

- Exercise and "safe risky play"
- Learning, discovery and imagination
- Cooperation, positive social connection and environmental stewardship.
- A decrease in negative emotions/behaviours such as boredom, aggression and vandalism

### Some ideas for using the Outdoor Learning Grounds (and the surrounding forest) to get outside with your family and interact with nature:.

- Create scavenger hunts to look for items that are growing in the forest, or have fallen to the ground (depending on the season!)
- Learn about the diversity of Ontario's native trees and plants by identifying specific species and their specific habitat requirements. Keep a look out for invasive species too.
- Attach old sheets or blankets to the posts. This can create a wonderful fort or maze to explore
- Older children can use the basics of trigonometry to measure the height of a tree.
- Children have wonderful imaginations; let them take the lead!

### So, what are those two sectioned off rows of plants on our school grounds? The beginnings of A Willow Tunnel!



Started: Fall 2016



Next step: weave



Fully grown! (3 years)

**Purpose:** A willow tunnel helps our environment by absorbing carbon dioxide and providing habitat and food for insects and birds, which classrooms can observe. It also provides an exciting shaded natural play feature for children.

**Measurements:** Once fully grown, our tunnel will measure 10m long x 2m tall x 2m wide. All out of willow!

**Next Steps:** To keep the willows growing properly, they will need to be continuously woven into the structure. This will be a great community-building project for students and their families, and other members of the community. More info to come!

**Did you know?** Greening has raised over **\$45,000** in the last 3 years from grants and fundraising!



### Falcons finally have a nest!

Thank you to Adam for designing and building an amazing Falcon bird house for our gardens and to the Huras Family for materials.



### Thank You to our contributing partners:



We have a new **Buddy Bench**, thanks to Rylan and Grayson Teskey and their parents! Our hope is this bench helps children meet new buddies to play with, so no one feels lonely on the playground. If you see someone sitting on the bench, go over and say hi!



## Other Greening Initiatives



**Thank you to our Spring Maintenance Crew who kicked off our gardening season!** Special thanks for the plant donations around our sign from the Carr family, tree donations from the Decker family and the planting of the trees by Mrs. Houghton's grade 2 class last year. All donations are appreciated. Stay tuned for more help needed in Spring 2017.



**Last summer was very HOT!** A BIG thank you to the following families - Young, Faulhafer, Laudano, Teskey, Burns, Schwarz, Hart and any others who helped water our trees and gardens to keep them hydrated and happy. We're looking for help again this summer so please let us know if you can lend a hand!

**Did you know we planted 40 tulip bulbs for Canada's 150<sup>th</sup> birthday?** Thank you to Wilmot Horticultural Society for their help, and to Mrs. Williams and Mrs. Hanson-Barry's classes for planting them.



**Forest Glen was awarded Silver certification from Ontario EcoSchools in June 2016.** Learn more at [ontarioecoschools.org](http://ontarioecoschools.org)



In April 2015, Forest Glen initiated the **TerraCycle waste elimination program** to divert previously non-recyclable waste (including all lunchable-style containers from the landfill. This year, **the school is also recycling ink cartridges!** Bin available for drop off at the office.



## Earth Week 2017



**Not sure what can be recycled or composted?**



See the Greening the Glen tab of Forest Glen's website for a couple handy guides!

**Forest Glen is expanding on Earth Week this year and promoting environmental awareness and stewardship across the whole month of April!** Mark the following dates on your calendar:

- April 4<sup>th</sup> to 18<sup>th</sup> – Bag2School fundraiser. (Special after school drop-off available on April 18<sup>th</sup> from 3:45-6pm.)
- Wednesday, April 12<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> – Walk to School Wednesday
- Friday, April 21<sup>st</sup> – Whole School Litterless Lunch + final date for Dirt Cheap orders
- Monday, April 24<sup>th</sup> – Wear green and blue
- Friday, April 28<sup>th</sup> – Earth Hour Repeat (from 11:30 to 12:30)
- ALL MONTH – Ban the Bottle (use refillable water bottles)

**Earth Day is Saturday, April 22<sup>nd</sup>.** The Eco Team has come up with the following things families can do to celebrate:

- Go for a walk in your neighborhood and help out by picking up garbage
- Enjoy a bike ride together
- Celebrate another Earth Hour
- Watch The Lorax as a family
- Try not to put anything in your garbage. Eat fresh food, compost and recycle!

A big **THANK YOU** to all the volunteers who have helped with Greening the Glen initiatives over the last three years, from planning to fundraising, donations, administration and yard work. This movement could not have happened without our school community coming together like this. Although the parent-run Greening Committee will complete its work this year, greening in general will continue to thrive at Forest Glen because of all of YOU!



Please recycle this paper when you are done with it. Thank you!