

**Blair Outdoor Education Centre
Program Outline: Winter Biodiversity**

Bus Times:

Schools are responsible for booking the bus for the trip. Please complete the form, **Off-Campus Excursion Category 1 IS-11-FA**. Busing costs are paid for by Learning Services, but you must book your bus through **STOCK Transportation (brendaj@stocktransportation.com 519 742-6224)**. When you book with STOCK please specify that it is an outdoor education field trip and they will bill Learning Services directly.

Please book your bus according to the following times:

If your school start time is between 8:30 and 8:50, book your bus to:			
Morning Programs		Afternoon Programs	
Arrive at Blair 9:15 a.m.	Depart from Blair 11:30 a.m.	Arrive at Blair 12:00 p.m.	Depart from Blair 2:15 p.m.
If your school start time is between 8:55 and 9:25, book your bus to:			
Morning Programs		Afternoon Programs	
Arrive at Blair 9:45 a.m.	Depart from Blair at 12:00	Arrive at Blair 12:15 p.m.	Depart from Blair 2:30 p.m.

Full day programs use morning arrival time and afternoon departure time.

- **All planning information for this trip is either contained in this document, or can be found on the Blair website.**

Blair Teacher Planning Page: <https://schools.wrdsb.ca/environmental-education/blair/blair-teacher-planning/>

- **Please complete the Blair Planning Form at least one week prior to your visit date.** This is the only written information I have regarding your class and I cannot be fully prepared for your visit without it. Of particular importance are life-threatening allergies that require an epipen or other medication.

Centre Visit Planning Form: <https://schools.wrdsb.ca/environmental-education/blair/centre-planning-form/>

Winter conditions:

Please be sure your students are dressed appropriately for the season. Students may need a reminder to bring snow pants, gloves etc. If conditions are right, we may be able to snowshoe during our biodiversity trek. Since we will be exerting ourselves out in the cold conditions I recommend that students bring reusable water bottles to help stay hydrated and remember to eat a hearty breakfast (especially if they normally skip breakfast!) This will help us manage light-headedness and/or hypothermia.

If you have any other questions or concerns, please don't hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

Nathan Mantey, OCT
Blair Outdoor Education Centre
519 653-9855
nathan_mantey@wrdsb.ca

Grade 6 Biodiversity – Vertebrate Study Centre Program



Full-day program:

Morning Program

Choose ***one*** of these ***indoor*** activities:

1. **Skull Study** – From a selection of skull specimens, mammals are classified as herbivore, carnivore, or omnivore based on tooth structure.



2. **Animal Coverings** – comparing the coverings of various vertebrate animal classes (mammal, bird, reptile, fish, amphibian) and determining other characteristics associated with those animals.

Choose ***one*** of these ***outdoor*** activities:

1. **Chickadee Study** – observe and record feeding behaviours of the black capped chickadee, and learn to associate certain chickadee vocalizations with specific flock and individual behaviours (territorial, dominance).
2. **Winter Trees** – using a dichotomous key, learn to identify and compare local coniferous tree species.



Afternoon Program

Biodiversity Trek – an extended hike on the Blair property investigating the diversity of wildlife and habitats through the signs and activities of our resident animal populations.

Ontario Curriculum expectations met:
Students will...

- *Demonstrate an understanding of biodiversity as the variety of life on earth*
- *investigate the characteristics of living things, and classify diverse organisms according to specific characteristics*

- *identify and describe the distinguishing characteristics of different groups of plants and animals*



- *describe interrelationships within species between species and between species and their environment and explain how these interrelationships sustain biodiversity*
- *use scientific inquiry/research skills to compare the characteristics of organisms within the plant or animal kingdoms*

- *because all living things are connected, maintaining diversity is critical to the health of the planet.*
- *investigate the organisms found in a specific habitat and classify them according to a classification system*

Half-day Program:

To maximize our outdoor time I would suggest:

- A. Chickadee Study + Biodiversity Trek (all outdoors)
- B. An indoor activity can be included - Skull Study or Animal Coverings - but reduces our limited outdoor time