

# SCHOOL VISITS

School Programming at Evergreen Brick Works



EVERGREEN

## Program Overview

Based in the heart of Toronto's Don Valley ravine at Evergreen Brick Works, our Visiting School Program uses natural, ecological and physical architecture to connect children to nature, get them active and cultivate their ecological literacy while delivering curriculum components.

“

*The trip was a wonderful opportunity for the students to be immersed in a local ecosystem. This firsthand experience of biodiversity has been referred to many times as we continue with our inquiries in the classroom. Thank you!*

”

— GRADE 6 TEACHER, QUEEN ALEXANDRA MIDDLE SCHOOL, TORONTO



Photo: Joanne Quinn



# Curriculum Connections

Evergreen's school programming is designed to bring curriculum to life with a strong focus in the following subjects:

- ▶ **Science & Technology (S.T.E.M.)**
- ▶ **Social Studies**
- ▶ **History & Geography**
- ▶ **Canadian & World Studies**

Our program is unique in its integration of Indigenous connections, arts, physical education and storytelling within each school visit.

The Evergreen Brick Works campus lends itself to programming centred around innovation, sustainability, urban agriculture and carbon-neutral design, empowering future leaders and city builders.

Evergreen's Education Team can work with teachers to design fully customized programs to suit all ages, grades, subjects and curricular requirements.

Please contact us at [\*\*\*school@evergreen.ca\*\*\*](mailto:school@evergreen.ca) or 416-596-1495 x452 to discuss your specific needs.



Photo: Mike Derblich

## Program Approach

Evergreen believes strongly in the power of experiential learning in the outdoors and its capacity to increase subject knowledge, and inspire wonder, curiosity and an appreciation for the environment.

### ▶ **Place-based**

Building a foundation of knowledge through a focus on local nature, culture and community

### ▶ **Ecological**

Providing children direct contact with nature

### ▶ **Hands-on**

Creating a compelling learning setting through multi-sensory, direct experience

### ▶ **Integrated**

Weaving together expectations from across the curriculum through ecological themes and engaging experiences

### ▶ **Arts-infused**

Breathing life into learning through creativity, compelling narratives and arts activities

### ▶ **Active & Mobile**

Moving the body to engage the mind

# All Grades

## Eco Clubs

Looking for a unique, experiential program for your Eco-Ambassadors? Join us for a full-day program where we'll explore sustainability ideas found at Evergreen Brick Works which you can bring back to your school. Programs are tailored to students' interests as well as to the seasons and weather.

## Cycle School

Explore the Evergreen Brick Works through the lens of the world's simplest and most efficient machine – the bicycle. Students will learn tool-handling skills, explore mechanical process and materials, and discover the Don Valley by bike in a full day of two-wheeled adventure. Available from May to October, rain or shine – we provide the bikes!

## Skate School

Connect students to the beauty of the outdoors while getting them active and having fun at our unique skating rink. Improve skating skills and work up an appetite with the help of our experienced coaches before lunch, then join us for storytelling and roasted apples around the fire in the afternoon. Skate rentals available!

*\* Skating rink closed for the 2017/2018 winter season.*

# Kindergarten

## Urban Animal Adventures

Children are naturally curious about the animals that inhabit the world around them. Through songs, guided exploration and crafts, students will learn about the different animals that fly, hop, burrow and swim at Evergreen Brick Works. Students will make connections to what they see at Evergreen Brick Works with what they find in their communities.

# Grade 1

## The Living City

The local community is presented in the context of the natural community, and the idea that all living things need food, water, shelter and space. We will show how the interaction of elements in a strong human community represents a healthy ecosystem. The Living City introduces students to Toronto's surprising abundance of living things – fox, deer, coyote, rabbit, and a host of birds, insects and plants – and how close these live to our communities of homes, streets, grocery stores and schools.

# Grade 2

## Water, Water Everywhere

Water is a central feature to communities around the world and Toronto's relationship with water is unique. Students will explore the local ravine and discover Mud Creek which meanders through the heart of Toronto. Students will explore the dynamics of moving water by creating mini-rivers, dams, beaver lodges and more.

## Take a Walk on the Wild Side

Students will explore the landscape through the eyes of the local animals. By engaging all of their senses, students will track the animals and learn about their interesting characteristics and behaviours. Through games, stories and habitat-building, students will learn about the importance of protecting the land for generations to come.

## Grade 3

### Earth Shelters

Children are builders by nature. In this program they use natural materials to create shelters that mimic the architecture of plants and animals. Working in groups, students will explore how different building techniques can affect the strength and stability of various structures, through hands-on activities.

## Grade 4

### Our Home and Habitat

In a sustainable city, physical and human geography are in harmony and the connection between people and place is strong and vibrant. This is a wide-ranging exploration of the hills and dales of Toronto's unique ravine landscape and the amazing diversity of wildlife found within. Students will learn where and how these creatures survive in the city and compete for food, water, air and shelter.

### Geology Rocks

Evergreen Brick Works sits on the floodplain of an ancient river, and was once home to an industrial quarry the size of the Rogers Centre. The quarry excavated clay and shale to make the bricks that built this city, but the process of digging exposed half a billion years of geological time and an epic tale of nature's history. Students will explore how the landscape evolved naturally and through human interventions.

## Grade 5

### Stealing Fire

Energy begins with the fire of the sun. The fire flows through the green leaves and needles of the plant kingdom into the metabolism of animals, including human beings. But unlike other animals, human beings learned to ignite and exploit fire. Students will explore how energy is transferred and transformed within food webs and other systems.

## Grade 6

### The Web of Life

The wetland habitat in the Don Valley Brick Works Park plays host to more species than any other space in the city, and the surrounding ravines provide homeland for fox, coyote, beaver, turtle, hawk and salmon. This program is an exploration of the astonishing diversity of life in the ecosystem of Toronto's Don Valley.

## Grade 7

### Producers, Consumers and Decomposers

Discover how all three interact in the natural environment, right here in the heart of the city! Learn about the food-webs that connect the different creatures living in the Don Valley and what happens when humans effect their balance. Students will get hands-on with our vermicompost (worm compost) and other decomposers to get a firsthand look at how decomposers contribute to a healthy environment.

### Water in the City

With its rivers, forests and dramatic geography, Toronto's ravine system defines the City's landscape. Making up 17 percent of Toronto's total area, ravines wind through residential, commercial and industrial neighbourhoods.

Students will get a close-up look at the ravine system that cuts through Evergreen Brick Works, learn about the history of these water ways and how humans have impacted the rivers and streams. Students will get to experience the challenges of designing a city around a ravine system and the negative and positive effects of moving water through a city.

## **Grade 8**

### **Exploring Our Watershed**

Evergreen Brick Works is located in the heart of the Don Valley watershed. Students will get hands-on and experiment with different ways to protect our watershed, and will explore Evergreen Brick Works and adjacent park for signs of watershed management and strategies used to mitigate pollution and human impact.

## **Grade 9 –12**

### **Bringing Nature to Our Cities**

Cities need nature. During your trip to Evergreen Brick Works, you'll explore ongoing efforts to restore and revitalize nature in our urban spaces. On a guided tour through the industrial heritage buildings, learn about how the site has been transformed into a global showcase for green design and urban sustainability.

Later, on a guided nature walk through the scenic quarry gardens, students will hear a story about the restoration of this once abandoned quarry and brick making factory. Students will roll-up their sleeves and get their hands dirty to bring new life to spaces in need of greening.

“

*I feel very fortunate and grateful that our school has had the opportunity to experience the programs and facilities at Evergreen Brick Works. These experiences have been invaluable for helping us build a sense of environmental stewardship within our community.*

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— GRADE 2/3 TEACHER, THORNCLIFFE PARK PUBLIC SCHOOL, TORONTO

“

*Thank you for providing my Kindergarten students with the opportunity to visit. Without the subsidy program these kids would never have had the opportunity to play outside all day and learn more about the natural environment.*

”

— JK/SK TEACHER, FRASER MUSTARD EARLY LEARNING ACADEMY, TORONTO

## Book Your Class Visit Now!

Registration is easy.

Visit [evergreen.ca/schoolvisits](https://www.evergreen.ca/schoolvisits) or call 416-596-1495 x452 to register and for more info.

Bursaries are available for qualifying schools.

\* Start the day at Castle Frank Station or at Evergreen Brick Works.



Evergreen is a national not-for-profit dedicated to making cities flourish.

**[evergreen.ca](http://evergreen.ca)**

## **FUNDERS**

HSBC

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