



Teacher Planning Guide

Evergreen Brick Works School Program

2015/2016

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Welcome to the Evergreen Brick Works School Program

Evergreen is pleased to offer a school program at Evergreen Brick Works (EBW) to serve Toronto and area schools. This program, launched in the fall of 2010, is an extension of our long-standing commitment to serving schools all across Canada since 1991. It also builds on our history of designing green school grounds and training teachers to encourage hands-on outdoor learning. We believe strongly in the power of experiential learning in the outdoors and its capacity to increase subject knowledge, motivate students and stimulate curiosity. Nestled in the heart of the city in the lush Don Valley, only 4km from Lake Ontario, we have a unique opportunity to connect students to their local landscapes. We hope your visit inspires further investigation of local natural areas close to your school.

Program Approach

Our program has been developed in close collaboration with a team of local teachers. Our approach can be summarized as follows:

- **Placed-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
- **Active and mobile:** moving the body to engage the mind
- **Arts infused:** breathing life into learning through creativity, compelling narratives and arts activities
- **Integrated:** weaving together expectations from across the curriculum through ecological themes and engaging experiences

Acting Today, Shaping Tomorrow

Our program is a timely, innovative approach to environmental education that fits neatly with the Ministry of Education's policy framework, *Acting Today, Shaping Tomorrow (2009)*. In keeping with this, Evergreen Brick Works school program is experiential, integrated and grounded in the real world. It actively engages students and connects curriculum to the places where students live and learn, and to the lives they lead.

Curriculum Integration

Each grade-level program is curriculum intensive. Each program magnifies one core subject strand (often from Science and Technology) and can be tailored to integrate specific expectations from other subjects (Social Studies, Language, Math). Health and Physical Education and the Arts are integrated into Evergreen's approach to environmental education.

Customized Programs

A unique aspect of the school program is our ability to tailor curriculum to the needs of individual teachers. While each program has established activities, the program is also designed to highlight specific curriculum that teachers request, and to cater to differentiated instruction within a class.

Contact Us

If you have questions about the program, please feel free to contact:

school@evergreen.ca 416-596-1495 ext 290

Outline of Grade-level Programs

Grade	Program Name	Subjects	Ministry of Education Curriculum
All Grades	<p>Clay Program – Clay Creations VS & SS; Clay, a natural material found beneath our feet, was a fundamental resource used in building our cities. Through an intense firing process, clay was baked to make bricks which we see across our city. Join us for a day of exploring the origins of clay, and later roll up your sleeves to mold, press, and squish clay to make patterns, prints textures and more. We'll bake our creations over an outdoor fire.</p>		
All Grades	<p>Eco Club An exciting, nature based field trip for your School's Eco Team that will inspire your team to become eco-ambassadors. Afternoon programs can include the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Animal Shelter Building Challenge (All Seasons) • Animal tracking and making your own tracks in clay (All Seasons) • Garden and Stewardship: Vermi-composting, greenhouse activity and planting/harvesting (Spring and Fall). • Eco-Sustainability tour of facility (all Seasons) • Skating (Winter only) 		
Kindergarten	<p>Urban Animal Adventures Children are naturally curious about the world around them. More specifically, about the animals that inhabit the world. 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 and what is found in their communities.</p>		
Grade 1	The Living City	S&T; SS	Needs and Characteristics of Living Things; The Local Community
	<p>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.</p>		
Grade 2	Water, Water Everywhere	S&T	Air and Water in the Environment ; Properties of Solids and Liquids
	<p>Students will follow the local ravine landscape and discover Mud Creek, which meanders through the heart of the city. Students will explore the dynamics of moving water by creating mini rivers, dams, beaver lodges and more. Water is a feature central to communities around the world and Toronto's relationship with water is a case in point.</p>		
	Take a Walk on the Wild Side	S&T	Understanding Life Systems: Growth and Changes in Animals
	<p>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.</p>		
Grade 3	Earth Shelters	S&T	Soils in the Environment; Strong and Stable Structures; Growth and Changes in Plants
	<p>Children are builders by nature. In this program they will use natural materials to create shelters that mimic the architecture of plants and animals. Working as a team, students will explore hands-on how different building techniques can affect the strength and stability of a structure.</p>		
Grade 4	Our Home and Habitat	S&T	Habitats and Communities
	<p>This is a wide-ranging exploration of the hills and dales of Toronto's unique ravine landscape. The ravines of Toronto play host to an amazing diversity of wildlife, and students will learn where and how these creatures live together in the same space with enough food, water, air and shelter. In a sustainable city, physical and human geography are in harmony, and the connection between people and place is strong and vibrant.</p>		

	Geology Rocks	S&T	Rocks and Minerals; Soils in the Environment
	Evergreen Brick Works sits on the floodplain of an ancient river, where there was once an industrial quarry the size of the Rogers Centre. The quarry excavated clay and shale to make the brick that built the 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	S&T	Conservation of Energy and Resources
	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 foodwebs and other systems.		
Grade 6	The Web of Life	S&T	Biodiversity
	This program is an exploration of the astonishing diversity of life in Toronto’s ravine ecosystem. The wetland habitat in the Don Valley Brick Works Park plays host to more species than any other space in the city. The surrounding ravines provide homeland for fox, coyote, beaver, turtle, hawk and salmon.		

Winter Programs (January, February & March)

Many of our grade-level programs continue through the winter. The same curriculum is applied, and the activities are modified to highlight the wonders of the season—cold climate, snow and ice, and how plants and animals adapt to winter. Evergreen Brick Works provides winter gear (boots, fleece jackets, wind shells, toques, mitts and socks) for students needing extra layers.

Special Winter Program features

- a miniature snow-covered landscape of hills and dales, trees and animal shelters
- a natural construction area for building forts out of natural materials—wood, hay, thatch, snow and ice
- a Campfire Pit
- a tipi
- Access to the Wetland Park and Ravine Trails in winter

Skating

To book a Private Rink for your class from 10am-12 is \$7 per student and includes free helmet and skate rentals. School program not included.

For \$20 per student your class will receive a guided nature hike, private rink, and rentals, and rink eco games from 11am-1pm
Minimum of 20 students.

Winter Adaptations to the Curriculum

- Grade 1 *The Living City* will continue to use hands-on activities (building with natural materials, exploration hikes, outdoor crafting and animal tracking), to teach the importance of basic needs and habitat to wildlife, students and their communities.
- Grade 2 *Water Water Everywhere* focuses on the miraculous nature of water in its solid forms—ice and snow.
- Grade 2 *Take a Walk on the Wild Side*. Just like humans, wild creatures need water, food, shelter, and space to survive. Through stories, building with natural materials and learning outdoor crafting skills the kids will explore the winter landscape through the eyes of the Don Valley critters that adapt to their harsh winter environment.
- Grade 3 *Earth Shelters* will, if conditions are good, focus on snow shelters.
- Grade 4 *Our Home and Habitat* will explore plant and animal adaptations to the winter environment and the role of ice in freshwater habitats.
- Grade 4 *Geology Rocks* will dust away the snow to unearth the shale and clay.

- Grade 5 *Stealing Fire* will explore the winter energy conservation strategies of ecosystems and cities
- Grade 6 *The Web of Life* will explore biodiversity in the winter and how the ecosystem sustains itself with fewer species.

Planning Your Trip

Before you arrive

- Read** through the Planning Guide
- Complete** the School Contract (emailed to you) and email (school@evergreen.ca) or fax (416-596-1443) it no later than 2 weeks prior to your visit.
- Distribute** the Model Release Form to students for parent signatures (found on last page of this package). If photos are allowed, you will need to bring the completed Model Release Forms on the day of your visit.
- Advise** EBW education program staff of:
 - special accommodations for students, parent volunteers and staff
 - the location of any emergency medication or equipment (e.g. insulin, epinephrine, asthma inhaler)
- Discuss** the customizing of your program (if desired) by setting up a phone meeting with one of our staff
- Be advised: EBW is located in a flood plain.** If there is heavy rain the night before or on the day of your visit, the site may be closed due to a flood advisory. During heavy rains, please call the EBW Weather Hotline at 416-596-1495 ext 550 or look to the Evergreen Brick Works website to find out if the site is open. In the event of a flood, we will do our best to reschedule your visit.

On the day of your visit

Travel & Timing

- Please confirm your arrival plans with Kristan McLean (416) 596-1495 ext 290. See the program schedule on the next page and options for travel to EBW on pages 5 and 6 to decide your method of transportation.
- **Be advised: EBW is located in a flood plain.** See note above for instructions on what to do if there is heavy rain the day of your visit or the day before.

Upon Arrival

- The visiting teacher and adult supervisors are responsible for class behavior and management, as well as bathroom, snack and lunch break supervision.
- Groups attending programs must be accompanied by 1 adult per 10 children to ensure student safety.
- Students with special needs must have adequate adult support at all times.
- It is advisable that teachers bring a cell phone in case of emergency.

Snacks and lunches

- Snack breaks are scheduled for mid morning. A nutritious snack is highly recommended, as the program is physically demanding.
- We request that snacks be nut-free and litter-free, and we encourage the use of recyclable or reusable containers. The site provides recycling and compost collection.
- Lunch is 45 minutes which includes free play during which visiting teachers are expected to supervise
- Lunch venues include indoor and outdoor options depending on the weather.

Clothing/Weather

- Please ensure your group, including teachers and volunteers, are dressed appropriately. Please see the clothing list and speak with EBW staff in advance if your group needs additional clothing (rain coats, toques, mitts, warm sweaters).

After your visit

- We value your feedback and will be emailing you a short online survey when you return to your classroom. Any suggestions for future programming ideas or other comments are most welcome.

Itinerary

9:30am	Arrive at Castle Frank station if you have chosen the guided nature walk to the site. The guided walk is part of the program and will take approximately an hour and a half.
10:00am	Arrive at EBW if using alternate transportation (teacher booked chartered school bus) and begin program from the site.
11:30	Lunch and Free Play
12:15 pm	Afternoon program begins
2:00pm	Depart on self-guided walk to Castle Frank station
2:15pm	Depart on shuttle to Broadview Station *limited seating capacity of 20 students
2:30pm	Depart via chartered bus which teacher has arranged

What to bring to EBW

Please bring:

- Litter-less lunches and snacks
(*please use reusable containers and limit the amount of packaging*)
- Individual water bottles
- Outdoor clothing
- Closed-toe shoes (for hiking in the ravines)
- Prescription medication, as required

Optional:

- Digital camera
- Compass
- Field guides
- Binoculars
- Sunglasses

Please DON'T bring:

- Nuts or food containing nuts
- an iPod, mobile phone or headphones
- Computer games

Cold Weather Clothing Guide

The best way to be prepared for all weather and for different levels of activity is to dress in 3 layers:

- 1) a thin layer next to the skin to keep the skin **dry**;
- 2) a thick layer for **insulation** in the middle to hold onto your heat. You can double this layer by wearing two mid-weight sweaters, or a sweater and a vest.
- 3) a **wind-breaker** outer shell keeps cold air out and warm air in.

Wear quick-dry clothes. Quick-dry clothes are: wool, silk, polyester, acrylic, nylon, or some kind of oil-based fibre that is repels water. Avoid cotton. Cotton absorbs water—that means if you sweat (which you will) your cotton shirt will get damp, stay damp and keep your skin damp. If you're damp, you'll get cold. If your clothes stay dry, your body stays warm.

If your feet are cold, wear a toque. 80% of your body's heat loss happens through the top of your head. Warm air rises through your body, from the bottoms of your feet to the top of your head. If you get too warm, the best thing you can do is take off your toque and let the heat escape.

Good to have:

- Hiking shoes (with a good tread for rough, muddy terrain)
- Thick wool or acrylic (non-cotton) socks
- A warm toque (wool or fleece)
- A turtle neck shirt (50% cotton, 50% polyester)
- Long underwear (polyester, wool, silk)
- Insulation: A thick wool sweater or fleece jacket (hooded)
- Quick-dry pants: (polyester or nylon athletic pants)
- Hooded wind- breaker/shell jacket (nylon)
- Winter coat (with built in insulation and wind breaker shell)
- Mitts or gloves (fleece or insulated nylon)

Getting to Evergreen Brick Works

550 Bayview Avenue, Toronto, ON, M4W 3X8



We highly recommend that school groups begin the program at Castle Frank subway station. Our program staff will meet the class there and, within 10 minutes, lead the class into the wooded park system, where we stop for some ice-breaker games and a snack and then proceed in small groups along one of Toronto's most beautiful woodland trails to Evergreen Brick Works. This component of the program takes 90 minutes and it is a wonderful experiential connection for students to the ravine parkland system where most of the city's ecosystem lives.

*Due to the lengthy morning hike and limited bathrooms along the way, we recommend that **Kindergarten** classes arrive directly to the site by school bus.*

Alternate ways to travel

As we have very limited pay parking on the site, please consider using one of these alternatives for traveling to the site:

- **Chorley Park:** EBW is a 5-minute trail walk from Rosedale's Chorley Park. TTC bus route #82 stops at the park. The bus travels to Rosedale Station. <http://www3.ttc.ca/Routes/82/Eastbound.jsp>



Model Release Form

Dear Parent(s)/Guardian(s),

Your child will be participating in an Evergreen event on _____, 20 15 with their class.

Evergreen is a not-for-profit organization that makes cities more livable.

By deepening the connection between people and nature, and empowering Canadians to take a hands-on approach to their urban environments, Evergreen is improving the health of our cities—now and for the future. Evergreen motivates people to create and sustain healthy, natural outdoor spaces and gives them the practical tools to be successful through its three core programs: Learning Grounds (working on school grounds), Common Grounds (working on publicly accessible land) and Home Grounds (working on home landscapes).

The activities your child will be participating in demonstrate the spirit of Evergreen's mission. We will be taking pictures and/or videos to share their contribution and inspire others to support Evergreen's goals. As a result, we would appreciate your consent to use pictures according to the following terms. If you agree, please complete and sign the form as indicated.

I understand and agree that these photographs and/or videos of my child may be used in the promotion of Evergreen. They may be published or used for any application in newspapers, magazines, film, television commercials, posters, slide presentations, electronic format, or otherwise displayed to the public or used for educational, fundraising, communication, information or training purposes—either in whole or in part by Evergreen or a third party on Evergreen's behalf.

I understand and agree that neither I nor my child will receive any compensation for the taking or use of these photographs and/or videos.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to address them to the Evergreen Coordinator for the event:

Kathleen Hutchinson Childrens Program Manager 416-596-1495

Name	Title	Phone #
Kathleen Hutchinson	Childrens Program Manager	416-596-1495

School Visit	Evergreen Brick Works
Event	Location

****PLEASE PRINT CLEARLY****

Childs' name	Parent/Guardian name	Signature (parent/guardian)