

Exemplary Environmental Leadership/Sustainability Program or Initiative

School Board: Ottawa-Carleton District School Board

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Name of Program/Initiative: Network Sessions and Stewardship Day

Hyperlinks to Documents or Website(s) Describing this Program/Initiative

Description of Program/Initiative

Network sessions

In order to build capacity among educators, the Curriculum Services, in partnership with Facilities Department, organizes network sessions. Each network is a series of Environmental Education sessions for 100 environmental education teacher-champions from schools within the board. The sessions encourage teachers to learn about, advocate for and follow environmentally sustainable practices. The sessions are levelled for educators teaching in the primary panel and junior/intermediate panels. All sessions are in support of the Board Improvement Plan for Student Achievement and focus on the key strategies of critical, creative and innovative thinking and problem-solving. The sessions are designed as an interactive professional learning opportunity to support environmental education within schools. Participants learn specific and practical strategies for embedding environmental literacy, art, drama, music, math, physical education, outdoor education, and inquiry into teaching and learning in the classroom across the curriculum.

In addition, teacher champions for the Ontario Eco-schools program have the opportunity to further develop their portfolio with support from the OCDSB Environmental Education Team.

Stewardship Day

An Environmental Education conference for elementary students and educators. The focus of the day is to engage students and staff with inspiring keynote speakers, community groups and activists, hands-on workshops, inquiry based learning and sharing collective knowledge around Environmental Education. This conference provides numerous opportunities for the expression of student voice and the development of critical thinking skills. The conference allows the sharing of links with community organizations to help extend engagement in and responsibility for environmental education to the broader community, as well as celebrate achievements by showcasing initiatives across the district, providing learning opportunities which support student learning, create community connections and provide ideas for future planning. In addition, schools who are awarded provincial eco-schools certification are honoured. All sessions focus on integrating environmental education throughout the curriculum so that it is embedded in everyday instruction. Coupled with this objective is the goal of encouraging students in

becoming environmental stewards. The sessions are also designed as interactive professional learning opportunities for students and staff to celebrate and encourage environmental education within schools.

What has been the Impact on Student Learning?

Educators leave the network sessions being better equipped to integrate environmental literacy into teaching and learning in the classroom across the curriculum.

Students leave the Stewardship Day better equipped to develop their critical thinking skills. By allowing the sharing of links with community organizations, the conference helps teachers and students extend engagement in and responsibility for environmental education to the broader community.