



Halton
District
School
Board

ICPS Climate Ready Space
May 9, 2023
3:00 p.m.
SOUL Webinar



Presenters:

Cheryl Hayles, Principal

Ben Harrison - Physical Education Lead Teacher

Alexandra Scarlett - ECO School Lead Teacher

Learn • Grow • Inspire



T O G E T H E R



Honouring the Land and Territory



Halton as we know it today is rich in history and modern traditions of many First Nations and the Métis. From the Anishinaabe to the Attawandaron, the Haudenosaunee, and the Métis - these lands surrounding the Great Lakes are steeped in Indigenous history.

As we gather today on these treaty lands we have the responsibility to honour and respect the four directions, land, waters, plants, animals, ancestors that walked before us, and all the wonderful elements of creation that exist.

We would like to acknowledge and thank the Mississaugas of the Credit First Nation for sharing their traditional territory with us.

Impact of the Climate Ready Space

Immediate benefits to our students:

- Students enjoy playing in the space because of the interesting choices they have.
- Students are learning how the natural environment supports their mental health in a positive way.





Broader Community

The Climate Ready Space contributes to the wellbeing of our larger community.

It is a beautiful space for families to enjoy after school or on the weekends.

It's a gathering place for large school events that include the entire community.

It is a teaching site for other schools who wish to explore outdoor education.

Shift in Staff, Students & Community

The shift is very obvious in multiple ways. For example, we see an increase in foot traffic flow.

It attracts pedestrians and so we have fewer families driving to school.

Kids want to walk through, so they encourage their parents to walk them to school.

Outdoor education is readily accessible

The “Outdoor Learning Zone” booking by teachers indicates 80% use of the space during class time



**Walking
to
School
in
the
morning**

After School Soccer Practice



Sense of Belonging and Community

It's a shared common experience and that instantly fosters a vested interest in the project.

School Council provided input and financial support for the project.

The student body has had a strong voice during the consultation process, the opening ceremony and the ongoing use of the space.

The Garden Club learned about the naturalization process and helped to plant the shrubs in the CRS.

Student Ambassadors lead the guided tours.

Garden Club Planting Shrubs in the CRS



Risky Play

Children are learning to take risks and engage in play opportunities they have never experienced.

Learning to climb is one example. Students test their balance and their courage to take a step beyond what they know.

Students are learning the space and learning how to navigate it.

It's as if a portal has opened up and students are discovering something new daily, including the nests built by birds!







Challenges we worked around

During construction we had to work within a limited area for play opportunities.

Students, staff and parents developed patience because they recognized the the final product would be worth the wait.

Post construction we had to stay off the areas that were fenced to protect the new grass seeds.

Healthy Communities

We want children to grow up in healthy communities and therefore play space and healthy food offerings are important.

We support sustainable development initiatives in our school community.

The climate ready space promotes healthy play and outdoor education.

The Community Garden provides food security for the community over the summer months

These are all human rights to health and wellbeing that if we work collaboratively we can achieve.

Starting Plants for the Community Food Garden in the Classroom



Community Planting Day 2022



A Canopy of Hope

The Climate Ready Space is a gift to our students.

It is currently the only one in Canada and we are proud to be stewards of the space.

In a way it is very symbolic of hope and international action to mitigate climate changes. Within the space, we planted trees that will be a canopy of protection for future generations!