

# Lois E. Hole Elementary School Mission, Vision and Values

"Let Nature be your teacher."— William Wordsworth

## Rationale:

Forest and Nature Studies is an educational philosophy which, when combined with classroom activities, offers children opportunities to develop and reinforce their learning through hands-on experiences in an outdoor environment.

## Mission:

Our mission is to provide innovative, inspired and meaningful classroom and outdoor experiences for children by creating engaging learning spaces and by fostering exploration of the natural world.

## Vision:

We will nurture generations of ecologically connected and academically well-rounded individuals who will have the knowledge, values, and skills needed to ensure that they are engaged citizens ready to make environmentally and socially conscious decisions.

## Values:

- We will encourage exploration, social responsibility and environmental stewardship.
- We will inspire individuals to become ambassadors for nature and champions for well-being.
- We believe the whole community benefits when children learn to value and recognize our natural world.
- We cherish diversity in learning styles and strive to create distinct, positive learning environments that meet each child's individual abilities.
- We understand the uniqueness of each child and design the learning environment with opportunities for active and reflective explorations.
- We capitalize on the rich varied social, cultural and linguistic gifts that each individual brings to the group.
- Our learning environment is a reflection of our image of the child as competent, capable and rich in potential.
- We are dedicated to the process of critical reflection, learning and growth as the basis of high-quality programs.
- We are committed to creating an atmosphere of mutual respect for each other, our community, our environment, and the world around us.
- We support children's explorations, experiments and discoveries by building a collaborative learning process with our students.
- We nurture authentic relationship building as an integral part of our practices.
- We cultivate a sense of belonging among the children, adults and our school community, with an emphasis on positive communication, resilience, and problem solving.
- As experts on their children, we invite families to participate as partners in their children's learning.
- We embrace life-long learning. Professional development opportunities are our passion and we strive to continually broaden our horizons.
- We seek to develop professional partnerships and are passionate about building bridges to create a community of best practices for learning.