



**Welcome to the Forest School.** We are excited you and your child are considering becoming a part of our school. We are a community of energetic, creative, fun, passionate, gentle, imaginative, motivated and peaceful individuals. We believe learning can be a wondrous adventure and invite you to come along.

Our days are filled with indoor and outdoor activities. Our students thrive on a balance of freedom and form. They take care and responsibility for themselves, each other, the earth and the school as a whole.

### **Everyone Welcome**

The Forest School does not discriminate on the basis of gender, sexual orientation, religion, ethnicity, economic status or political affiliations.

### **Spirituality**

The Forest School celebrates the wisdom of the earth and the changing of the seasons. The school has no religious affiliations.

### **Peace Place**

Forest School is a peaceable program. Students are actively encouraged and supported in learning non-violent play and communication methods. All students are asked to refrain from bringing weapons of any kind or other items depicting or encouraging violence.

### **The Food**

Communal meals and snacks are a part of Forest School. Parents are asked to participate in a meal preparation rotation, where families provide food for a specific meal or day. Personal snacks can be brought for after school.

### **The Time**

The day begins at 9:30 am with outdoor play and finishes at 3:30 pm. We do our best to have the children ready to go at this time, however, if speed is of the essence, parents are free to come up and help their child get ready to go.

### **Nut Free Zone**

The Forest School is a nut free place. Please refrain from sending any meals or snacks containing nuts of any kind. Be sure to read all labels on prepackaged food and avoid using foods bought in bulk bins.

*“Education is not the filling of a pail, but the lighting of a fire.” William Butler Yeates*

## To Bring

Children are asked to bring outdoor clothes appropriate for the season (e.g. snow pants, rainsuit etc), and indoor shoes. If possible, an extra set of clothes would be great. No toys please.

## Snow Days

Snow days will be determined by 8:00 am of each day. If storms arise, arrangements may be made to get children home early. If the weather is indecisive, the school may remain open and families will make decisions based on their own comfort level.

## The Role of the Parents

The Forest School values and encourages parental involvement. In addition to family volunteer service, parents are asked to participate in a 1/2 day parental immersion, to attend term check-ins and celebrations and to share ideas and concerns at advisory meetings.

## The Role of the “Teachers”

The Forest School values the knowledge and experiences of everyone. Students will learn from community members, parents, professionals, experienced educators and each other. “Teachers” guide and support learners in exploring their interests; initiate interesting quests and invite students to come along and arrange opportunities for play, discovery, adventure and doing.

**The Forest School-** Remember that the Forest School space is available to members for personal gatherings and workshops by donation.

## TUITION & DISCOUNTS

The Forest School is committed to providing an alternative-learning centre that is an affordable choice for families. Through fundraising, volunteer service, a barter exchange program, sibling discounts and alternative payment plans, we aim to be accessible to a diversity of families.

### TUITION

There are one and two day/week enrollment options. **Payment may be made for the year or by the first day of each term.**

*Term 1:* September 15 to December 10, 2008

Cost: \$750.00 (25 days)

*Term 2:* January 5 to March 4, 2009

Cost: \$510.00 (17 days)

*Term 3:* April 6 to June 17, 2008

Cost: \$600.00 (21 days)

Year Tuition- **\$1860.00**

**Tuition reserves your child's spot at the Forest School. There will be no reimbursement for days missed.**

**Service:** Families are asked to contribute a minimum of 5 hours of volunteer service per term. (Service completed by families reduces the schools costs and ultimately tuition). These hours maybe bought out at a rate of \$10/hour, though participation is encouraged. There are many types of volunteer services that any family member may provide.

**Fundraising:** Families are asked to contribute to the annual fundraising endeavors of \$600 per term. Families have the option of buying out their fundraising contribution at a cost of \$300 for the year, or \$100/term registered.

**Fee:** There is a one-time registration fee of \$125.00/family. This fee is a long-term investment in the school, allows us to provide for all the students supply needs and includes a family membership.

### DISCOUNTS

**Barter-Exchange Program:** Any family may apply to reduce their child's tuition through the barter-exchange program. This option is available if you provide necessary services that are in our expense budget or provide services that generate growth and income for the school. We value these services at \$10/hour.

**Family Discount:** 10% off tuition costs for each additional child.

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## The Forest School - Application for Admission

Child's Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Child's Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Parent/Guardian #1 Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_ email: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_ Alternate Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Parent/Guardian #2 Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_ email: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_ Alternate Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_

◆ Which enrollment option are you registering?  One day/week  Two day/week

◆ **Payment Plan Choice:**  For entire year  Per term

*Per term payments are due September 15, 2008; January 5, 2009 and April 6, 2009*

If this is your first time registering, a one-time application fee of \$125 is due with this application. Please identify your payment make cheques payable to *Element of Adventure*. Please mail application and payment to: Attention: Sue Holloway, The Forest School, R.R.#1, South Gillies, ON, P0T 2V0

*The Forest School welcomes all people. We do not discriminate on the basis of race, color, sexual orientation, gender, religion, disability, political affiliation, family structure, or national or ethnic origins.*

I have read the joining package, am interested in registering my child and understand the commitment required in becoming a member of the Forest School.

\_\_\_\_\_  
*Parent/Guardian Signature*

\_\_\_\_\_  
*Date*

(Optional)

I hereby give my permission to the Forest School to photograph, audiotape or videotape my child and to use my child's image, spoken words, and/or student work for educational and promotional purposes.

\_\_\_\_\_  
*Parent/Guardian Signature*

\_\_\_\_\_  
*Date*

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## Role of the Parents and Families

The Forest School values and encourages parental involvement.

***Volunteer Service- Service:*** Families are asked to contribute a minimum of 5 hours of volunteer service per term. (Service completed by families reduces the schools costs and ultimately tuition). These hours may be bought out at a rate of \$ 10/hour, though participation is encouraged. There are many types of volunteer services that any family member may provide. Included is a record sheet to assist you in keeping track of your commitment and a list of possible service ideas. Please let us know if you have any other ideas. At the end of each term families will be asked to pay out any outstanding service hours unless other arrangements are made.

***Parental Immersion-***Parents are asked to participate in a ½ day parental immersion at the Forest School in the term your child is first registered. Accompanying your child to school for ½ day enables you to experience first hand a day in the life of your child at the Forest School. This will provide insight that can help both facilitators and parents support the transference of learnings and practices between the home and school environments. This will not be included as service hours.

***Advisory Meetings-***One meeting will be held each term. These meetings are opportunities for parents and staff to talk about how things are going at the Forest School, share ideas, concerns, and provide feedback and suggestions. All parents are asked and encouraged to come.

***Fundraising-***All families involved in the Forest School are expected to contribute to the year's fundraising endeavours of \$600/term. You may choose to buy out your contribution at a set fee of \$100/term enrolled. In the first weeks of school, a parent fundraising meeting will be held to discuss the terms plans.

***Term Check-in and Celebration-***In each term parents are asked to attend the term check-in and celebration. This is an opportunity to gather with other families, participate in a fun event with your child and his/her friends, and share in their excitement and creativity. It is also an opportunity to spend one-on-one time with the facilitators to discuss your child's experiences at the Forest School.

***Meal Preparation Rotation-***As previously mentioned, parents are asked to contribute to the communal meals. The families involved will arrange the logistics of this at the beginning of each term.

The Forest School values everyone's knowledge and experiences. If you have an interest, craft or skill that you would be interested in sharing with the students, please contact Sue at 473-4599.

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## 2008/2009 Forest School Year

**Term 1:** September 15 to December 10, 2008

**Term 2:** January 5 to March 4, 2009

**Term 3:** April 6 to June 17, 2009

◆ events outside of weekly program

### **Term 1 dates of Note:**

September 15- First day of school

September 21- Great Canadian Shoreline Clean-up ◆

October 11- First Annual (rubber) Duck Race ◆

October 13- Holiday

November 4- Advisory Committee Meeting

December 10- End of term Celebration and Check-in

### **Term 2 dates of Note:**

January 5- back to school

Holiday- February 16

February 10- Advisory Meeting

March 4- End of term check-in and celebration

### **Term 3 dates of Note:**

April 7- back to school

April 13- holiday

May 12- Advisory Meeting

May 18- Holiday

May 24- Festival of Fairies (and other such little people) ◆

June 18- Summer Solstice Celebration and end of term check-in

## Volunteer Record Sheet

Date	Activity	Hours
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Some ideas for volunteer service are: sewing, building, decorating, fixing etc the Forest School Space, trail maintenance, chopping wood, assisting with special events, facilitating special class, volunteering in class, chaperoning field trips etc. If you have other ideas, please let Sue know. Service can be bought out at a rate of \$10/hour.

## The Forest School Health Form – School Year \_\_\_\_\_

Child's Full Name \_\_\_\_\_ Preferred Name \_\_\_\_\_ Birth date \_\_\_\_\_ Gender \_\_\_\_\_

Parents/Guardian \_\_\_\_\_

Home Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Alternate Daytime Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Child's Physician's Name \_\_\_\_\_ Physician's Number \_\_\_\_\_ Child's OHIP Number \_\_\_\_\_

**General Health Information:** *Please check all that apply and give necessary details. Use the back if needed.*

Activity Restrictions \_\_\_\_\_

Allergies \_\_\_\_\_

Asthma \_\_\_\_\_

Dental (Braces/Retainer?) \_\_\_\_\_

Diet Restrictions \_\_\_\_\_

Seizures \_\_\_\_\_

Vision (Glasses/contacts?) \_\_\_\_\_

Other \_\_\_\_\_

Is your child currently taking any medication?  Yes  No

Please list medications and their intent. \_\_\_\_\_

If there is anything else you feel we should know concerning your child's health or mental or physical condition?

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Please check the boxes below, which you agree to authorize. (Please keep a copy for your records).**

I hereby authorize the representatives of the Forest School to contact my child's physician or to have my child taken to a hospital or health care facility in case of serious illness or an accident involving my child. I authorize the administration of any necessary treatments to my child in case of emergency.

I hereby give my permission to the representatives of the Forest School to administer over-the-counter medications or homeopathic remedies to my child, which I have indicated in the list below:

Tylenol     Ibuprophen     Rescue Remedy

I hereby give my permission to the representatives of the Forest School to administer prescriptions or medications, which I provide, and which must be kept on hand for the use of my child.

Parent/Guardian Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

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