

Niagara Nature Network Meeting Minutes

Thursday April 30 2020

1. Welcome and Introductions
2. Acceptance of Agenda
 - Reviewing the agenda and adding additional areas - accepted
3. Housekeeping –
 - How to “Raise Hand”
 - Chat Box
 - ECCDC website
 - What’s New Section
 - COVID-19 webpage
 - Couch Exchange Bulletin
 - Lending Library – curb-side pick-up
 - Updates on networks and spring training new dates
4. Mindfulness Exercise –
 - sensory awareness, relating back to connecting when in nature
 - Helps you feel calmer, more at ease
5. Rusty Keeler Video Reflection:
 - Loose Parts play-nook within the zoo
6. How is everyone doing?
 - Keeping busy
 - Planting
 - Outside play with the kids
 - Sometimes hard with little kids
 - Working on CPL
 - Coping
7. What have you been doing?
 - Walks
 - Painting rocks
 - Planting veggies
 - Watching nature in backyard
 - Watching buds appear
 - Outdoor games
 - Picking up & painting pinecones

- Planting flowers
- Yard work
- Loose part ideas, lots of recycled items
- Community garden
- Playing in stream, creating boats, etc
- Walking trails
- Walking dog
- How to make garden with kids, bringing in dietician
- Wish to build garden/ sandbox, no backyard to do so
- Families have been sending photos so they can post on blog and families can comment
- Zoom for earth day, kids cleaned their own yards and toys
- Photographed bugs
- 30-day earth challenge
- Children making mud pies

8. Things you are looking to do once you return

- Closed for summer, it will be awhile
- Zoom classrooms and sharing pictures
- Seeing what has changed in school yard since last there
- Container gardens
- Pictures of yard work done during quarantine and share with class
- Connect with families, what are they doing in nature?
- Pathways, what happens when humans don't touch nature – usually well trodden

9. How can we continue some of these changes? I.e., cutting down garbage, using recycling, way you purchase at grocery store

- Compost
- 30 Questions for students around the world to celebrate, explore and connect with nature
- Found painted rocks to brighten peoples day
- Ideas on Pinterest
- Nature Bingo
- Vernal Pool Studies at Heartland Forest – what resources would be helpful to share with this audience?
- Walk through a wooded area each week and send in to share what they found
- Cutting boxes up and taping together
- Purchase butterfly cocoons or use milkweed to get a caterpillar and use netting to host them
- Homemade bee homes
- Feeding chipmunks, squirrels, birds

10. What else can ECCDC be offering to support you?

- Pictures/ videos of studies done, participants can share to us and we can share with group/ community – curious about birding and butterflies
- Like the network, got many great ideas

11. Discussion on ideas for next Network meeting – May 2020

12. Meeting Evaluation sent electronically