



Volume 14
Issue 2
Winter 2016-17

Learning is **NATURAL** at Brightwater

...In Winter!



Students observe medicinal plants peeking through the snow

PLANNING A WINTER EXPERIENCE

This season, plan a winter experience to get your students **OUT** of the classroom and **INTO** the prairie landscape. The land ‘teaches’ all year round. Brightwater facilities and resources are available to support your learning activities in *all seasons* and *weather* conditions. A few openings still remain for this Jan-Feb-March 2017 to book a one-day or multi-day inquiry for your class. Learn how to bring your class to Brightwater by attending our Middle Years Winter In-service on Wed, Nov 23rd, 2016.

MIDDLE YEARS WINTER-PROGRAMMING IN-SERVICE

Brightwater experiences begin with the support of an in-service. All Middle Years programs booked during Jan-Feb-March 2016-17 will *ideally* begin with the teacher(s) attending the Winter in-service out at the SPS Brightwater site. Thank you to those teachers who have already submitted a booking and have registered to attend the in-service. *Program Bookings still available and Registration open until Nov 23rd.*



Middle Years WINTER In-service:

Wednesday Nov 23, 2016

9am-4pm for teachers NEW to Brightwater

OR 1-4pm for teachers RETURNING to Brightwater

@ PotashCorp Eco-Science and Indigenous Learning Centre

Bring your own lunch— Snacks, Tea and Coffee provided

Teachers New to Brightwater: We will familiarize you with our facilities, sites and resources. You will have opportunity to meet with the project leader and facilitators to develop and individualize your programming needs.

Returning teachers: spend a half day planning one-on-one with our Project Leader and facilitators to individualize your students’ experience and programming needs.

To Do:

- ⇒ Email Susan (Lutkins@spsd.sk.ca) to **confirm your registration on PD Place** (<https://pdreg.spsd.sk.ca>)
- ⇒ Book your sub through **ADS** using code: **PD Central Office Support**, and look for **Middle Years In-service** in the dropdown menu



Learning is **NATURAL** at Brightwater

BRIGHTWATER SITES AND FACILITIES

Brightwater has 2 main learning sites: 1) the SPS site and 2) the Salvation Army Beaver Creek Camp Site.

The 60-acre SPS site is the base for High School programs and hosts the new **PotashCorp Eco-Science and Indigenous Learning Centre**. This ECOIL Centre is an all-seasons learning space designed with ecologically sustainable architecture that reflects Indigenous perspective and content. The exterior and interior design and materials of this building provide numerous opportunities to learn about sustainable design and practice.



Brightwater Creek Oct 2016

The Middle Years program is based out of the Salvation Army Beaver Creek Camp full-service facility. Multi-day experiences lease cabins, kitchen, and hall facilities through an ongoing partnership between SPS and the Salvation Army. (See fee schedule below).

Together these sites have a **trail system** that spans a quarter section of land; excellent for inquiry hiking, cross-country skiing, and snow-shoeing.

Brightwater creek flows through both sites providing opportunity for inquiry and exploration. Nearby, a 'Little Schoolhouse' site provides a secondary home base for both high school and middle years day programs.

SALVATION ARMY BEAVER CREEK CAMP RENTAL FEES:

- \$11/student and teacher per night
- \$9/student and teacher per night (for Community schools)
- \$170 Full Site Rental for DAY USE ONLY
- \$0 - No charge for Parent supervisors and Volunteers

SPS BRIGHTWATER SITE and ECOIL CENTRE RENTAL FEES:

- \$0 - No Charge for Saskatoon Public Schools use

FALL PROGRAMMING UPDATE 2016

Between September and November 2016-17, in just over 2 months, Brightwater sites have hosted over **1000** students, teachers, and volunteers. This means that Brightwater has provided authentic land-based learning experiences to an average of at least 19 people, per school day, so far this school year!

In the depth of winter I finally learned that there was in me an invincible summer. -Albert Camus

Thank you for choosing Brightwater to create a meaningful out-of-school learning experience for you and your students.



BRIGHTWATER HIGH SCHOOL PROGRAMMING

Each year more of our high school teachers are discovering the authentic learning opportunities available to their students at Brightwater. So far this school year we have had 9 of our 11 High Schools participate in Brightwater Fall programs!

The SPS Brightwater site is a logical location for high school teachers seeking to meet curricular outcomes through **authentic land-based** education and incorporation of **Indigenous Knowledge**. Inquiry-based learning opportunities are virtually limitless; we can engage students in innovative learning on and from the land in the Sciences, Social Studies, Native Studies, Math, History, ELA, Art, Photography, Music and other courses. Brightwater experiences are exemplars of Collegiate Renewal initiatives! We would be delighted to explore with you meaningful ways to extend your classroom learning!

PLANNING YOUR HIGH SCHOOL BRIGHTWATER VISIT:



Begin with reviewing examples of resources other teachers have made available on the Brightwater website. <http://www.spsd.sk.ca/Schools/brightwater/programs/secondaryprogram/Pages/default.aspx>. Identify the outcomes and/indicators you would like to address with your class while on the land. Have your students develop an INQUIRY QUESTION for their Brightwater Experience, and let that guide your program design. Contact the Brightwater Project Leader to discuss scheduling, facilitation support, pacing and other possible options.

Consider how you would like to connect the place-based learning of Brightwater with your classroom learning to design a holistic and relevant connection between them. Each program has the potential for pre-visit research, the opportunity to collect data on site, and numerous post-experience possibilities.

Brightwater **Traditional Knowledge Keepers** and **facilitators** are available to assist your students with their inquiries. Brightwater works closely with the **FNIM Education Unit** to provide students with opportunities to engage in authentic experiences with a Traditional Knowledge Keeper. Please contact FNIM Unit directly (683-8310) to arrange a sweat ceremony for your students.



SOME PROGRAM/INQUIRY IDEAS:

**Native Prairie Ecosystems *Treaty Education *Math in Nature *Art in Nature *Film *Traditional Knowledge *Photography *Nature Inspired Music *Food Forests *Art *Ethnobotany *First Nations and Metis Cultural History *Active Environmentalism *Aquatic Ecosystems *Terrestrial Ecosystems *Sustainability *Forest Ecology *Drama *Place and Identity *Green Careers *Sustainable Architecture and Design*

Brightwater also has several **Legacy Projects** on the go that you may wish to investigate: Indigenous Wellness Garden; Bluebird Nest Box Monitoring; Food Forest; Jack Pine Forest Succession.



Do you have an idea you would like to share with us? Need more information?

Contact Brightwater @ 306-242-3874



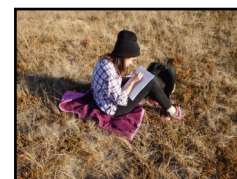
The Three Core Strands Of the Brightwater MIDDLE YEARS Multiday Experience

Nature Immersion → Inquiry Study → Leave a Legacy

The Salvation Army Beaver Creek Camp is the base site for Brightwater Middle Years experiences. MY experiences are often 2 or 3 days in duration. The follow example explains the most popular approach chosen by teachers and considered most effective in connecting students to the land.

DAY ONE : NATURE IMMERSION

Day One sessions are typically run by parents or teachers. Rotate 2 or 3 sessions with cabin set up, snack times and lunch. Dividing students into groups of 10, or less, is ideal for learning in the outdoors. Examples include: **Nature Awareness Self-Guided Hikes; Initiative Tasks; Nature Photography;** and **S.A.T (Sit And Think) journals.**



DAY TWO: INQUIRY STUDY

Brightwater facilitators, with the help of your assigned parent volunteer, assist students with exploring the Ecology of Native Prairie from Western Science and Indigenous perspectives. Plan up to **three 90 minute facilitated sessions in a day.** **Science** facilitators support your student inquiries concerning aquatic/terrestrial animal and plant ecology. **Ethnobotany** facilitators assists students with information about traditional plant uses **Art facilitators** encourage students to artistically express their connections to the natural world. Budget \$1.50/student for the cost of art materials. Parents or teachers also lead sessions such as: **Orienteering/GPS Hike; Wilderness Survival Skills; Solar Studies.**



DAY THREE: LEAVE A LEGACY

Allow your students time to reflect and act upon their responsibility to the natural world by participating in the Indigenous perspectives of **“Giving Back” to the land** and by spending time with an SPS **Traditional Knowledge Keeper from the FNIM Unit.** Sessions can be delivered in 2 one-hour rotations during the morning of Day 3. Also, SOLO time/SAT Journal/ Poetry along the trails lets inspirations flow onto paper and can be shared later as a Post-Visit classroom activity.



‘CHOICE TIME’: WHAT TO DO FROM 4pm –10pm

Less structured activities during CHOICE time (4 to 6pm) and the after supper hours. Divide students into groups supervised by an adult ,and participate in building **Birdfeeders** @ a cost of \$6 per feeder. Journals, Quiet Pursuits such as Fabric Crayon T-Shirts, Dream Catchers, Board Games, Origami, Sketching, Beading, Role play, Cooperative games, Active Games such as Predator Prey survival game, Indigenous Games, Night Hike, or Astronomy Session (for a small fee, contact Ron Waldron for Sky Talks in the evening at rmwaldron@shaw.ca), and end with an **Evening Campfire Sing Along.**

SPS Brightwater Experience/Sites

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