

The Role of the Environment in Learning

Students impact their environment and are, in turn, impacted by it. A learning environment is the context in which learning happens and are made up of multiple learning spaces - built and natural, outdoor and indoor, formal and informal. Spaces should inspire creativity, innovation and collaboration, support and respond to emerging inquiries, and help students develop and demonstrate the attributes of the learner profile. Engaging learning spaces promote student agency, exploration, wonder, creativity and risk through play. (*The Enhanced PYP*, 2018).

Throughout Nursery to Grade 5 our students have opportunities to experience safe and inclusive learning environments that recognize and reflect diverse ways of knowing, being, and thinking. In addition to engaging and inviting learning spaces indoors, learning experiences extend passed the four walls of a classroom. Time spent outside gives students opportunities to observe and explore the world authentically. This can then lead to further inquiry and meaning-making back in the classroom.

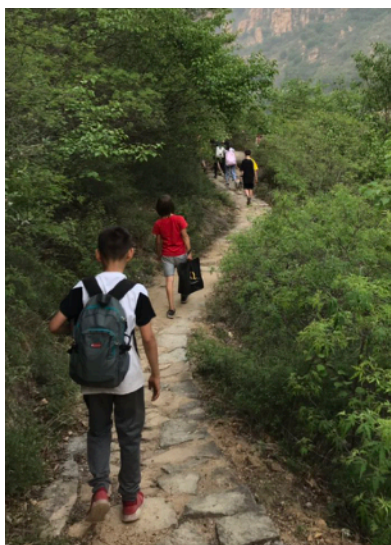


The outdoor classroom gives balance to our learners by providing new and authentic ways to:

explore their curiosity, experience nature, use natural materials, and solve problems creatively.



A Look Inside... Outdoor Learning Grade Four's Days Without Walls



During the Baihe overnight field trip, students were **inquirers** and became more **knowledgeable** as they experienced the natural world. They were **caring** and **principled** as they became stewards of their planet. They were **risk-takers**, stepping well beyond their comfort zones and trying new things. Other "Days Without Walls" events this year included G3's trip to Tianjin and G5's trip to Yanqing.