Introduction

Zoo School is a part of the Campus Calgary Open Minds curriculum-based program which is a citywide network of 10 learning sites. This program, funded by the Chevron Corporation, is founded on a ground breaking educational model that represents inquiry learning at its finest. Students from grades 2-12 are immersed for a week into the world of plants and animals at the Calgary Zoo. Through hands-on activities, animal encounters, careful observation and interactions with zoo experts, students are able to experience learning beyond the walls of their classroom. Each week is tailored to meet curriculum objectives as well as a 'big picture' idea for the class. This can encompass a year of learning which helps to generate a lasting impact on students.

With the number of threatened or endangered species on the rise and children becoming increasingly disconnected from the natural world, it has become paramount to engage citizens with nature and to present opportunities for students to become ecologically literate. Chevron Zoo School helps students form a lasting bond with nature which will hopefully result in the conservation stewards of our future.
### Zoo School Participation 2016/2017

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>School</th>
<th>Weeks</th>
<th>Grade</th>
<th>Big Idea</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>St. Thomas More</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>How do we connect with the plants and animals of Alberta and the world?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lake Bonavista</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>3/4</td>
<td>How are we all connected?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Highwood</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>How are we all connected?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Captain Nichola Goddard</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>What role do past experiences play on influencing the direction of our future?</td>
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<tr>
<td>Killarney Montessori</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>1/3</td>
<td>What moves you? What are you curious about?</td>
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<tr>
<td>McKenzie Lake</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>How can we build bridges to grow and connect curious and caring global citizens?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>St. Joan of Arc</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>Community - What is community and how do we connect with it?</td>
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<tr>
<td>Olympic Heights</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>How can we make a difference in the world? How can we speak for the animals?</td>
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<tr>
<td>Thorncliffe School</td>
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<td>3/4</td>
<td>How can we make an impact on the world?</td>
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<tr>
<td>Copperfield Park</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>How can you be an advocate for change?</td>
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<tr>
<td>McKenzie Town School</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>Where will this journey take me?</td>
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<tr>
<td>St. Damien</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>What is play?</td>
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<tr>
<td>Our Lady Assumption</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>How can we make a change in our lives to make a positive change for the environment?</td>
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<td>St. Gerard French Immersion</td>
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<td>How is the zoo involved in conservation?</td>
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<tr>
<td>Piitoaysis Family School</td>
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<td>3/4</td>
<td>How can animals have a positive impact on humans and vice versa?</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sacred Heart</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>3/4</td>
<td>How does the zoo act like a conservationist?</td>
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</table>
Mission: Take and inspire action to sustain wildlife and wild places

“Students are eager to share and be part of the cause!”
~ Teacher

“After the Open Minds program, our students want to build bird houses next spring. Some students also suggested planting more flowers for bees and butterflies next year.”
~ Teacher

“My students took action to educate their parents and fellow students about conservation through action projects that included selling greeting cards with their photography from the zoo. They have raised enough money to adopt the animals that they observed at the zoo, and many more local animals that they learned about during their week.”
~ Teacher
“Our students now have a broader appreciation, and understanding of their place, and responsibilities, in the world community as well as their own immediate community. They learned about nature while being immersed in nature. They were eager and engaged to take action in multiple ways!”

~ Teacher

“The stories about Skokie the bear and other Canadian animals inspired us to think more about sustaining wildlife and wild places.”

~ Teacher
Our Year in Numbers

1037 Total participants

16 Schools

6 CCSD

32 Zoo Experts

36 Teachers

10 CBE

28 Weeks of Classes

378 Parent Volunteers

623 Students

Parent Volunteers

Students

Teachers

Zoo Experts

CCSD

Schools

Total participants

Our Year in Numbers
## Historical Application Statistics

### Total Number of Applicants

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
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<th>15</th>
<th>14</th>
<th>13</th>
<th>12</th>
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### Total Weeks Requested

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### Total Weeks Rejected

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### Total Weeks Accepted

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</thead>
</table>
Q1. Because of my participation in Open Minds, I have a better understanding of my role in the inquiry process.

- Strongly Agree
- Agree
- Neither Agree nor Disagree
- Disagree
- Strongly Disagree

Q2. Because of my involvement in Open Minds, I am more likely to practice inquiry-based learning/teaching on a regular basis.

- Strongly Agree
- Agree
- Neither Agree nor Disagree
- Disagree
- Strongly Disagree
Q3. My ability to identify and create relevant and authentic connections among disciplines has increased and deepened after my participation in the Open Minds program.

- Strongly Agree
- Agree
- Neither Agree nor Disagree
- Disagree
- Strongly Disagree

Q4. Personalizing learning comes from an awareness of students' strengths and needs. My ability to personalize learning has grown after my participation in the Open Minds program.

- Strongly Agree
- Agree
- Neither Agree nor Disagree
- Disagree
- Strongly Disagree
Survey Results: TEACHER

Q5. My practice of listening to student voice through journals, conversation and experiences and responding with flexibility as we co-design learning tasks, has grown since my participation in the Open Minds program.

- Strongly Agree
- Agree
- Neither Agree nor Disagree
- Disagree
- Strongly Disagree

Q6. The orientation, summer in-service, planning meeting and CC/OM workshops throughout the year have met my needs.

- Strongly Agree
- Agree
- Neither Agree nor Disagree
- Disagree
- Strongly Disagree
Survey Results: TEACHER

Q7. My participation in Open Minds has renewed my passion for teaching and learning.

“I felt I would be inspired by my experience, but really had no idea until I was immersed in the week. It was amazing!” ~ Teacher

“I think Open Minds is one of the best pro-Ds for me! It has so much to offer both for teachers and students. I learned so much during the program and my teaching practice has improved since then. Thank you.” ~ Teacher

“Zoo school helped renew my passion for teaching students the importance of conservation.” ~ Teacher

- Strongly Agree
- Agree
- Neither Agree nor Disagree
- Disagree
- Strongly Disagree
Q8. Your Zoo School experience met the Calgary Zoo’s objectives to:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Objective</th>
<th>Strongly Disagree</th>
<th>Disagree</th>
<th>Neither Agree nor Disagree</th>
<th>Agree</th>
<th>Strongly Agree</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Engage visitors with enjoyable and unique experiences</td>
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<tr>
<td>Connect people with nature</td>
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<tr>
<td>Educate about conservation</td>
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<tr>
<td>Take and inspire action to sustain wildlife and wild places</td>
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</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Q9. My students are likely to apply the knowledge and skills acquired across all academic disciplines since their participation in the Open Minds program.

- Strongly Agree
- Agree
- Neither Agree nor Disagree
- Disagree
- Strongly Disagree

Q10. My students have gained confidence as learners since participation in the Open Minds program.

- Strongly Agree
- Agree
- Neither Agree nor Disagree
- Disagree
- Strongly Disagree
Q11. My students are more engaged as demonstrated by taking responsibility for their own learning since their participation in the Open Minds program.

- Strongly Agree
- Agree
- Neither Agree nor Disagree
- Disagree
- Strongly Disagree

Q12. My students have gained a greater sense of environmental awareness and concern for the environment since their participation in the Open Minds Zoo School program.

- Strongly Agree
- Agree
- Neither Agree nor Disagree
- Disagree
- Strongly Disagree
I have an increased understanding of zoos and the role they play in wildlife conservation

I have a different perception of/attitude about the Calgary Zoo

I will visit the Calgary Zoo in the future

I have an increased knowledge of teaching and learning in the 21st century

Survey Results: PARENTS
I see my child exploring learning in new ways.
I have new strategies to support my child's learning.
This experience positively impacted my relationship with my child.

- Strongly Agree
- Agree
- Neither Agree nor Disagree
- Disagree
- Strongly Disagree

“This will definitely be something my child will remember forever.”
~ Parent

“I always thought of the zoo as animals put in cages but now I see that they are involved in conservation and preservation initiatives.”
~ Parent
“Don’t judge each day by the harvest you reap but by the seeds that you plant.”
~ Robert Louis Stevenson

“I feel that they are definitely engaged in their learning as a result of participating in Open Minds.”
~ Teacher