



Bee School Application

Name of School

St. Louis Living Arts School

Address

[420 8th Street](#)
[Keewatin, Ontario](#)
[POX 1C0](#)

Name of Applicant

Kerri Favreau

Applicant's Job Title

Teacher

Organization or Department

St. Louis Living Arts School

Applicant's Email

kerri.favreau@kcdsb.on.ca

Applicant's Phone

+18074644471

Are you the primary contact person?

Yes

Briefly summarize why your school should become a Bee City School.

Over the past few years, St. Louis School has significantly increased its care and attention to environmental stewardship. We have maintained vegetable gardens for four years and planted a Pollinator Garden in the 2018-2019 school year, which was doubled in size this past Spring. We formed the Down to Earth Nature Club two years ago, which involves 60 students (nearly half our school population) from Kindergarten to Grade 6. This club meets twice a week with various members of the Kenora Community to deepen our understanding of important environmental issues. We also have an active Student Social Justice Club who have worked on a variety of initiatives to support those in need in our community. At St. Louis School, we strive to be leaders in taking action to increase and amplify ecological programming and practices. We believe these actions will lead to greater care for the earth. Our school will be reopening in the fall of 2020 as the St. Louis Living Arts School.

In order to enhance the understanding of the students and staff about the vital role that pollinators play in a healthy ecosystem, the applicant agrees to meet the following commitments required of all Bee City Schools:

1. Adopt the Bee City Canada Resolution (see section G).
2. Create a Bee City Pollinator Team.

Pollinator Team Members

Maureen Frankcom, Principal

Theresa Clarke, Teacher

Karen Smith, Teacher

Leanne Chisholm, Teacher

Danielle Benson, Student

Students and Parents to be added to our team in September 2020

3. Develop a Pollinator Habitat Action Plan:

Over the past two years we established a pollinator garden at our school. Our garden includes bee balm, echinacea, butterfly weed, yarrow, russian sage, lavender, calendula, borage and scabiosa. At this point, our school feels it is ready to take on a more robust project. In our goal to provide more responsive, environmentally-aware, and sustainable education, and to provide the very best academic education to our students, we are reopening in the fall as the St. Louis Living Arts School. We plan to offer comprehensive, creative learning through innovative, life-giving programs. One of the projects for this new, creative program is that we have a Beekeeping Program, one through which the Ontario curriculum for all grades is explored through work with our pollinator habitat, bees, bee keeping, and building and sustaining hives. We have great partnerships with community for this program, and are excited for its potential. Through the mentorship of the Kenora Beekeeping Club, our plan is to build a compound on the school property, to build hives and frames, to obtain two nucleus colonies, and begin beekeeping at the school.

4. Promote Education about Pollinators:

In addition to our current Pollinator Habitat, we plan to install a large clover bed next to the hives. This will take place in the Spring of 2021. In the meantime, we will continue to care for our garden. We are thrilled that many families have signed up to water and weed the garden over the summer months. Our garden is full of pollinators right now, and we look forward to observing them in the Fall with our students. We will also begin working with members of the Kenora Beekeeping Club. As there are many aspects to beekeeping, different grades will delve more deeply into specific tasks:

Kindergarten (with support of the whole school community): Maintaining the Pollinator Garden by watering, weeding and planting new species.

Grade 1: Learning about the characteristics and needs of bees with special emphasis on preparing the sugar syrup solution for the bees.

Grade 2: Learning about the life cycle of the bee through specific observation of the queen.

Grade 3: Learning about strong and stable structures by building the beehives and nuc boxes.

Grade 4: Learning about the different products that come from bees and creating beeswax candles.

Grade 5: Learning about changes in states of matter and extracting the honey from the frames.

Grade 6: Understanding and communicating the importance of biodiversity through the beekeeping program.

5. Celebrate Pollinators:

Throughout the year we hope to create a mini documentary of the school beekeeping program, using video clips from the different projects. This would be used to spread the important message about protecting and caring for bees and other pollinators. Students and staff will, through mentorship and over time, become the guardians of the bees and it will be a part of our school life. The hives and frames will be built by students, with assistance from members of the community. We will also have arts, crafts, cooking and fundraising opportunities surrounding the successful implementation of our hives. The Kenora Beekeeping Club is an essential part of our project. They have already begun the mentoring process with many students and some staff members. This will continue to grow as more members of the Beekeeping club will be mentors who visit the school. Through our annual Learning Festival which takes place in June, parents and families will become more versed in the role of bees in the environment, and in a healthy ecosystem.

I/we, the undersigned agree to:

1. Publicly acknowledge Bee City School designation through publicly displayed signage, city/region/community website and other means.
2. Annually re-apply for Bee City School designation. A renewal application will be sent to you.

Please submit a short 50-100 word write-up of why it's important to become a Bee City School.

Our school is shaped by a strong ecological mindset and a commitment to be good stewards of creation. We see gardening and caring for pollinators as a life enriching practice that we are happy to share with our students, their families and the local community. Being a Bee City School celebrates the relationship between our community and the natural world.

Attach your school logo (png format) with any usage guidelines.

[logo-st-louis.jpg](#)

Attach photos, videos, posters, documents or other media showcasing events, activities or initiatives.

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Signature of Principal/Official

Maureen Frankcom

Date

07/15/2020