

Have you helped the environment today?

This month, we are celebrating our trees! March 21st is the

International Day of Forests!

Here in Prince George, we are very lucky to be surrounded by beautiful forests. Our forests are mostly made up of coniferous trees, including lodgepole pines and white spruce trees. Coniferous trees, also known as evergreen trees, are the kinds of trees that have cones and needles, and don't shed over the winter. For example, Christmas trees are coniferous trees!



Why are our forests so important?

- Did you know that trees and other plants absorb CO₂ (carbon dioxide) from the air, and turn it back into oxygen for animals and humans to breathe? Large sections of forest are sometimes called 'carbon sinks', because so much CO₂ from the atmosphere is absorbed by that area. Heavily forested areas like Northern BC are carbon sinks, and they benefit the entire planet!
- Forests provide a habitat and home for a wide variety of woodland animals and plants. Some animals (like foxes and black bears) are called 'edge species', and they like to live on the edge of the forest, near roads or human communities. Other animals (like grizzly bears or caribou) are called 'interior species', and they prefer to live in the middle of a forest where there is no human activity. We have to make sure we leave big sections of forest undisturbed for those interior species!
- Trees' roots help prevent soil from eroding (especially on mountains or hills, or beside a river or lake!), and leaves or pine needles that fall off of the tree help keep the soil rich with nutrients, so that other plants can grow healthy and strong. Trees are kind of like caretakers of the soil, and we need soil to grow all of our foods, vegetables, and grains!