



## LORD BYNG ELEMENTARY PARENT ADVISORY COUNCIL

Charitable Registration Number: 89081 2142 RR0001

---

Hello Parents of Grade 6 and 7 students,

For those of you not aware our children will be participating in Outdoor Ed this Spring. This is a unique program that consists of a 3-day 2-night camping experience with their teachers and fellow students at a school approved camping lodge. We are happy to announce that we have confirmed Camp Sasamat in Belcarra, BC (<https://sasamat.org/>). Camp dates are May 17, 18, 19th of 2017.

This experience has been a tradition at Lord Byng Elementary and its focus is to create a physical and social environment that supports the development of positive character traits such as responsibility, independence, openness to new experiences, courage, critical thinking, and teamwork. It is a wonderful bonding experience for the students.

Typically, in the past an Outdoor Ed committee has been formed and fundraising happens in order to decrease the cost of the program for the parents. This year we would like to try a new approach and have provided instead some suggestions on how your family personally can start putting aside money, that we know will make more of an impact on the reduction of your cost for the program. On the reverse side of this page you can find some easy suggestions on how you can start saving now.

The sooner you can implement a family saving plan for this experience, the greater success you will have at reaching the targeted amount for the camp costs. The average cost for camp has been around \$250.00. Every dollar here or there tucked away over the next year will lessen the overall amount that you will have to pay outright.

Please keep in mind that these are merely ideas. Your family can get as creative as you need. We suggest decorating a container marked Outdoor Ed and leave it somewhere visible as a reminder and handy to start dropping your savings into. We encourage students to participate in these activities as it teaches the children responsibility and ownership for this rewarding program and not just have mom and/or dad just write a cheque.

Any questions or concerns you may have can be addressed with your teacher, or administration in regard to Outdoor Ed.



## LORD BYNG ELEMENTARY PARENT ADVISORY COUNCIL

Charitable Registration Number: 89081 2142 RR0001

---

- 1) **Bottle refund** - Any bottles you use as a family or extended family can be returned to the bottle depot from now till camp. The deposit refund will quickly add up. Perhaps you can even ask your neighbours if you can return their bottles for them and split the cost. Tell them what you are saving up for, they may be glad to help out.
- 2) **Skip the treat** - I'm sure we all have something we indulge in. Coffee, donut, chocolate bar, lunch out. Once a week skip it and instead throw the money you would have spent into the Outdoor Ed container. Start thinking brown bag lunch and a tall glass of healthy water! You won't believe how quickly skipping the treat will add up.
- 3) **Loose change** - Any loose change you stumble upon or ends up in your pocket at the end of the day throw into the savings container. Putting aside fifty cents a day over the course of a year will allow you to save \$182.50. Increase it to seventy-five cents a day and you get \$273.75
- 4) **Babysitting** – Some of the kids have taken their babysitting course. Take on a few jobs over the year and tuck that straight into the jar! If they haven't taken the course, then perhaps they still can or if they get money for chores tuck that away.
- 5) **Skip the movie** - Instead of heading out as a family to the movies skip the night out and wait for it to come out on-demand or DVD instead. Stay in for a family fun night and play your favourite board games or card games. Calculate the money you would have spent and throw it into the savings container.
- 6) **Yard sale** - Collect household items you no longer need and host a yard sale. Make it even more fun and buddy up with your outdoor friends and host it together. Yard sale not your thing? Sell it on eBay or Craigslist, take it to a consignment shop, or post it on the Richmond Bid Site.
- 7) **Homemade cards** - make a pact with your friends. For the next year make your Birthday, holiday, or thank you cards. Grab some paper and your creativity and put a personal touch to special occasion cards. Store bought cards add up (usually \$2-6/card). Stick those savings into your camp container and show your inner artist instead.
- 8) **Get a Library card** - A library card grants access to thousands of books for free, but that's not all. Use your library card to borrow movies, magazines and newspapers or go online to source your news.
- 9) **Leave your wallet at home** - Going for a walk? Leave your wallet behind and you won't be tempted to grab coffee, soda or a treat. Remember what you would have spent while you were out and put that money into the camp savings jar.
- 10) **Christmas** - Do we really need all the stuff we get? Think twice and cut back. Spend quality time together not quantity time. Skip one item and put that cost towards camp. Their memories made at camp will be remembered for years to come.