



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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FRANKLIN PARK CONSERVATORY'S NATURE SCHOOL USES HANDS-ON ACTIVITIES TO DEVELOP SKILLS, PIQUE INTEREST IN PLANTS

Columbus, OH – Franklin Park Conservatory and Botanical Gardens' preschool program, Nature School, engages children in hands-on experiences throughout the Conservatory that nurture curiosity, investigation, and understanding of plants, insects and the natural world.

The seasonal classes introduce students to a new topic each week, while building on learned concepts and skills. This year, parents of participants can choose from the morning session (9–11:30am) or afternoon session (1–3:30pm). Previous sessions are not required as prerequisites to attend upcoming sessions. Students can join at any time during the 10-week session.

- **Winter Exploration:** Tuesdays, November 28, 2017–February 20, 2018
- **Spring Exploration:** Tuesdays, February 27–May 1, 2018

Becky Schedler, Nature School Program Coordinator, balances classroom activities with interactive "field trips" throughout the Conservatory to create a well-rounded and developmentally appropriate curriculum. "It's the intimate, engaging explorations throughout the gardens that add to the overall impact of the 10-week program," Schedler remarks. "Children use all their senses as they explore each week's theme." Topics for Nature School range from wildlife and weather to health and wellness.

Schedler served as the Preschool Director at Temple Israel Preschool in Columbus for 18 years before joining the Conservatory's Community Outreach and Education Department. Schedler brings her invaluable experience in early childhood education, as well as her love for nature, to the table as the leader of the Nature School program.

"In addition to exploring the Conservatory and nature-related themes, it is so rewarding to see the classroom come together as a community," says Schedler. "None of the children know each other at the beginning of Nature School—we quickly become a classroom of friends who not only care about the Earth but care about each other too."

To register for Nature School, visit www.fpconservatory.org or call 614.715.8022.



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Franklin Park Conservatory and Botanical Gardens features plant collections, art and nature-based exhibitions, plant shows, and educational programs for all ages. Situated in an 88-acre urban park, the Conservatory features the historic 1895 John F. Wolfe Palm House and 83,000 square feet of glasshouses, classrooms, and meeting and event spaces. The Conservatory's Growing to Green program has assisted central Ohio community gardens since 2000 and has provided resources to more than 200 community gardens, schools gardens, and neighborhood beautification projects throughout the area.