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VISITING PETS

Butterflies

Although technically not pets, many of the classes in Diana's school have raised and released Monarchs and/or Painted Ladies Butterflies. In 2016-17, three Kindergarten classes reached out to **butterfliesandroses.com** and obtained classroom kits. The kits contained 25 caterpillars and the food they require. The students were eager to see their development from larvae to pupae to adults.

Atlantic Salmon

Diana's colleague Farah Wadia raised 100 babies with her Grade 7s and 8s — salmon babies to be exact! In conjunction with the Toronto Zoo, the Aqualinks Program, and the Toronto District School Board Science/Technology and STEM departments, Farah's class took part in a salmon hatchery project. The tank was housed in Ms. Wadia's classroom because of the light and sound considerations, but everyone in the school and beyond were welcome to visit the aquatic additions. Ms. Wadia and her intermediate division students raised the salmon from the eyed-egg stage to alevin and then fry. They were released as fry into Duffin's Creek in the Greenwood Conservation Area. Ms. Wadia did a fantastic job incorporating the salmon hatchery experience into all areas of the curriculum. One of the most popular outreach projects was the creation of video games in Scratch that allowed younger players to have fun and learn about the situation facing salmon in the wild.

OSPCA

Call or visit your local OSPCA (ontariospca.ca/what-we-do/humane-education-and-animal-care/humane-education-programs.html). They run a "Humane Education" program. A new Grade 2 program is about to launch.

Therapeutic Paws of Canada

Therapeutic Paws offers a variety of children's programs including the "Paws to Read" program. Visit their website for contact information and to find out what is available in your area: tpoc.ca/programs/for-children.

Reptilia

Reptilia is Canada's largest fully indoor reptile zoo. They have many educational programs that come directly to the school (see reptilia.org/education-programs).