



Dear Kindergarten Parents,

During the weeks of February 28 through May 9, 2024 your kindergartener will participate in the Lakewood Outdoor Learning Area (LOLA) Education Program. They will be investigating our native plants and animals!

Lakewood Elementary is excited about our partnership with the Dallas Arboretum which will provide weekly outdoor learning and environmental science exploration for the 2023 semester. Each week, Arboretum instructor, Lisa Dolliver, will accompany the Lakewood teachers as they guide students in field experiences within the LOLA. During this four week session, the students will be studying customized TEKS-aligned curriculum designed to enhance their classroom science lessons. Please see below regarding your class's LOLA schedule. We encourage parent volunteers to participate in LOLA. See the [Sign Up Genius](#) to volunteer!

Be aware that your student will be outdoors during their LOLA time and should dress appropriately. It is recommended that students wear tennis shoes, ankle/comfortable socks, long pants/long sleeve shirts, and jackets/rain boots when applicable. Sandals, skirts/shorts/dresses and warm-weather wear are **not** ideal. Students should wear clothes they can move in and get a little dirt on! It may be a good idea to wear sunscreen and bug spray. Your child may also wear their LOLA shirt on their LOLA day, LOLA After School days, and on Fridays (spirit day). Please review the attached parent and student responsibilities with your child.

The partnership with the Dallas Arboretum will aim to strengthen our students' science skills through hands-on outdoor learning. We hope to introduce your child to the outdoors as a source of lifelong learning. Students will learn more about nature and how to act as wise-stewards of the natural resources on which we all depend. Each experience will be linked to lesson plans using DISD Curriculum Maps and Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills (TEKS) benchmarks.

Should you have any further questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact us. We look forward to sharing our passion for science and the outdoors with your children!

Thank you,

LOLA PTA Contacts
Jacki Pavlick and Melissa Vela
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Dallas Arboretum - LOLA Instructor
Lisa Dolliver
ldolliver@dallasarboretum.org



Kindergarten LOLA Schedule - Investigating Native Plants and Animals

Grade K- Investigating Our Native Plants and Animals	Dates	Day 1 Times	Day 2 Times	Learning Objective
Exploring our Ecosystem: What is Living and What is Nonliving?	Wednesday, Feb. 28 and Thursday March 1, 2024	KB: 8:10-8:55 KA: 9:00- 9:45 KG: 11:35-12:20 KF: 12:25-1:10 KD: 2:15-3:00	KE: 8:10-8:55 KJ: 9:00-9:45 KH: 11:35-12:20 KL: 12:25-1:10 KC: 2:15-3:00	TEKS K.9A Differentiate between living and nonliving things based upon whether they have basic needs and produce offspring.
Plant and Animals have Basic Needs	Wednesday, Mar. 20 and Thursday, Mar. 21, 2024	KB: 8:10-8:55 KA: 9:00- 9:45 KG: 11:35-12:20 KF: 12:25-1:10 KD: 2:15-3:00	KE: 8:10-8:55 KJ: 9:00-9:45 KH: 11:35-12:20 KL: 12:25-1:10 KC: 2:15-3:00	TEKS K.9B Examine evidence that living organisms have basic needs such as food, water, and shelter for animals and air, water, nutrients, sunlight, and space for plants.
Observing and Classifying Animals by Physical Characteristics	Wednesday, April 17 Thursday, April 18, 2024	KB: 8:10-8:55 KA: 9:00- 9:45 KG: 11:35-12:20 KF: 12:25-1:10 KD: 2:15-3:00	KE: 8:10-8:55 KJ: 9:00-9:45 KH: 11:35-12:20 KL: 12:25-1:10 KC: 2:15-3:00	TEKS K.10A Sort animals into groups based on physical characteristics such as color, size, or body covering. TEKS K.10B Identify basic parts of animals.
Observing and Classifying Plants by Physical Characteristics	Wednesday, May 8 and Thursday, May 9, 2024	KB: 8:10-8:55 KA: 9:00- 9:45 KG: 11:35-12:20 KF: 12:25-1:10 KD: 2:15-3:00	KE: 8:10-8:55 KJ: 9:00-9:45 KH: 11:35-12:20 KL: 12:25-1:10 KC: 2:15-3:00	TEKS K.10A Sort plants into groups based on physical characteristics such as color, size, or leaf shape. TEKS K.10B Identify basic parts of plants.