

**HASTINGS PERMISSION FORM
BIG BACKYARD PROGRAM (BBY)**

Big Backyard is a town-wide program that enriches the elementary school science and social studies curriculum through nature walks. BBY introduces each child to many aspects of the natural world while also enhancing skills of scientific inquiry, such as question formulation, observation and deduction. Classes will explore fields, woods and other habitats on and off Hastings School property. The walks are led by trained parent volunteers who follow carefully prepared curriculum guides. The following table shows when and where each grade will be conducting their walks. Specific walk dates will be determined by each class.

GRADE	SEASON	CURRICULUM LINK	LOCATION
Kindergarten	Fall	Observing Fall	Schoolyard
Kindergarten	Winter	Observing Winter	Schoolyard
Kindergarten	Early Spring	Signs of Spring	Schoolyard
1 st Grade	Fall	Animal Shelters and Survival	Schoolyard
1 st Grade	Winter	Animal Survival in winter	Schoolyard
1 st Grade	Spring	Birds survival in Spring	Schoolyard
2 nd Grade	Fall	Native American use of plants	Schoolyard
2 nd Grade	Winter	States of Matter – Ice, water, snow	Schoolyard
2 nd Grade	Spring	Soils and their components	Schoolyard
3 rd Grade	Fall	Colonial use of natural materials	Schoolyard and Fiske Hill
3 rd Grade	Late Spring	Insects in the Food Chain	Schoolyard
4 th Grade	Winter	Winter Twigs/Classification	Schoolyard
4 th Grade	Spring	Whipple Hill Geology	Whipple Hill
5 th Grade	Winter	Forest Ecosystems	Schoolyard
5 th Grade	Spring	Close observation of plants	Schoolyard

Becoming a BBY volunteer is a wonderful way for parents to share in their child's education. No experience is required.

BIG BACKYARD PERMISSION FORM (Please return completed slip to your child's teacher)

Grade _____ Teacher _____

My child, (print) _____, has ___/does not have ___ (please

check one) my permission to participate in the Big Backyard nature walks during the _____ school year, according to the schedule for his/her grade as listed above. I understand that he/she will be visiting school grounds as well as (IF APPLICABLE) going off school grounds as outlined above. I understand that the walks will be led by trained parent volunteers.

I will contact the school nurse about any changes in my child's medical condition that might need to be considered on a nature walk.

Parent's signature: _____ Date _____