



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

October 21, 2016

CONTACT:

Jennifer Wilson
Director of Marketing and Visitor Experience
Office: 614-715-8150
Cell: 740-398-8371
jwilson@fpconservatory.org

FRANKLIN PARK CONSERVATORY'S NATURE SCHOOL IMMERSSES YOUNG AUDIENCE IN NATURAL WORLD

Columbus, OH – Franklin Park Conservatory and Botanical Gardens' new preschool program, Nature School, engages children in hands-on experiences throughout the Conservatory that nurtures 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. With four different sessions offered throughout the school year, children experience programming tailored to each season. Previous sessions are not required as prerequisites to attend upcoming sessions.

- **Fall/Winter Exploration:** November 1, 8, 15, 22, 19, December 6, 13, 2016
- **Winter Exploration:** January 10, 17, 24, 31, February 7, 14, 21, 28, March 7, 2017
- **Spring Exploration:** March 14, 21, 28, April 4, 11, 18, 25, May 2, 9, 2017

Becky Schedler, Nature School Program Coordinator, has created a curriculum that covers topics ranging from natural resources to nutrition. The program is geared toward developing children's skills in language arts, math, science and beyond.

Nature School is unique in that the Conservatory, with its diverse gardens and biomes, becomes the classroom. "This will be their Conservatory," says Schedler. "The program will provide children with programming that goes beyond the daily visitor experience."

Schedler served as the Preschool Director at Temple Israel Preschool in Bexley for 16 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.

"Having several classes in a session allows children to build community among their peers and instructor," says Schedler, "and provides a supportive and nurturing environment for growth." To register for Nature School, visit www.fpconservatory.org or call 614.715.8022.



###

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.