

## What's New At The Zoo- Oct 2021 Edition

schools <schools@torontozoo.ca>

Fri 10/8/2021 10:54 AM

To: schools <schools@torontozoo.ca>

### WHAT'S NEW AT THE ZOO! EDUCATORS' EDITION

#### Welcome Back! How Can It Be October Already!!

I'm sure you'll agree that this past September has just flown by. With all the changes from virtual to in person learning, to establishing new classroom rules and routines, hopefully your students feel a bit more at ease, and ready to learn. That's where we can help.

Join the Learning & Engagement staff and Climate Action Learning & Leadership (CALL) Program staff and interns *LIVE* for a *free online educational event discussing biodiversity and climate change*. Learn about how a changing environment impacts wildlife from around the globe, including here at home, and what actions you can take to help.

See some iconic species such as the polar bear and greater one-horned rhinoceros up close, and discover some Zoo-led conservation initiatives right here in Toronto. There will be interactive riddles and teaching resources provided so classes can follow along.

**Date:** Thursday, October 21 **Time:** 10:30 am – 11:15 am

**Audience:** This program is geared towards grades 4 to 7; however, all grades and audiences are welcome to attend

**How to Participate:** Join us live on the Toronto Zoo YouTube Channel.

**Registration is not required and this is a FREE event!**



**Current Hours:** 9:30 am – 4:30 pm weekdays  
9:30 am – 6:00 pm weekends

#### School Group Admission Rates:

|                     |      |
|---------------------|------|
| Child Care Centre*: | \$9  |
| Elementary:         | \$9  |
| Secondary:          | \$10 |
| Post-Secondary:     | \$11 |

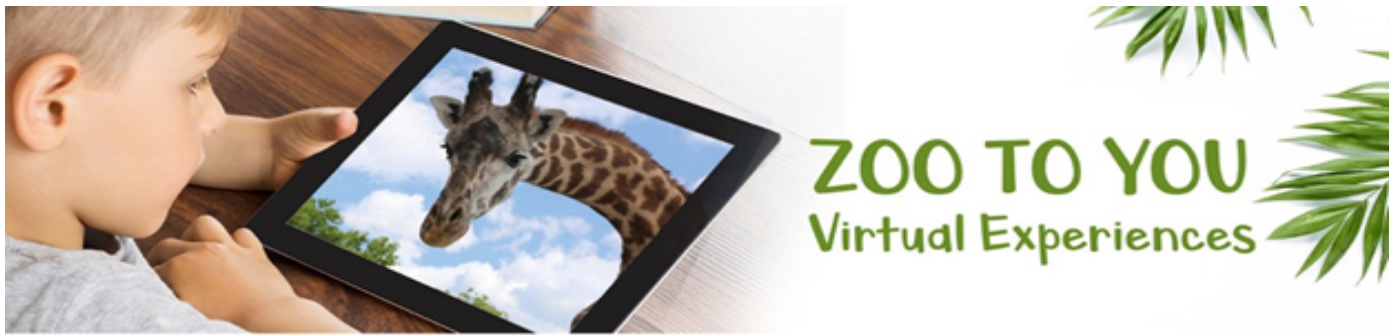
\*Child Care Centres must be licensed with the Ontario Ministry of Education to receive the \$8 admission rate. A minimum of 10 children required. Excludes school holidays.

#### School Group Supervision Ratios:

|           |        |
|-----------|--------|
| PreK – 3: | 1 : 5  |
| 4 – 8:    | 1 : 10 |
| 9 – 12:   | 1 : 20 |

#### Contact Information

School Programs: [416-392-5944](tel:416-392-5944)  
Virtual Programs: [416-392-5947](tel:416-392-5947)  
Admissions only: [416-392-5932](tel:416-392-5932)

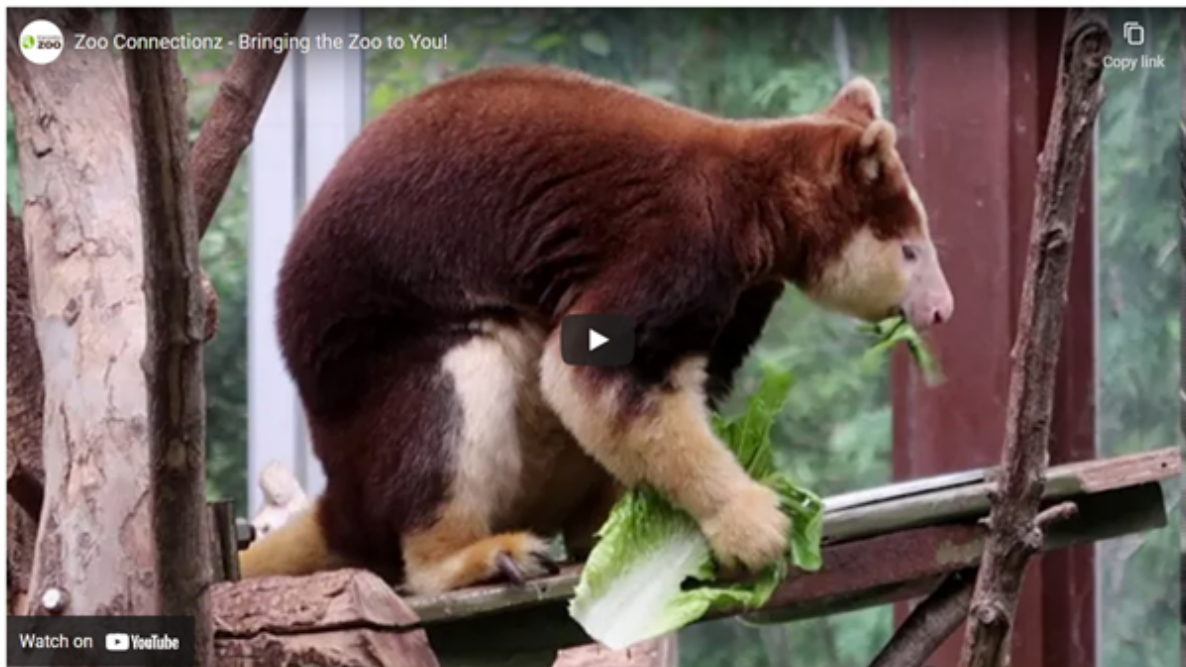


## Take a Virtual Trip to the Toronto Zoo Any Time!

This school year, we're making sure that the Zoo is accessible to more students by bringing the Toronto Zoo right into your classroom: join us for **Classroom Connectionz virtual tours** linking curriculum concepts to real world natural examples. Our Virtual School Workshop includes a 30-min private tour of a section of the Zoo packed with information covering a chosen topic, classroom resources to enhance student learning, and an additional 10-min Q&A session for students to ask their own questions to our animal experts!

Want something shorter? Consider a **Virtual Meet & Greet** where an animal ambassador will make a 15-minute special appearance for your class, alongside a guide who will be available to answer any questions. You can choose the type of animal ambassador you'd like to appear, and your class may have a hippo say hi or a giraffe say good day!

HERE'S A SNEAK PREVIEW OF THE VIRTUAL EXPERIENCES WE HAVE TO OFFER!



To learn more and register for your virtual visit, go to: <https://www.torontozoo.com/zootoyou/connectionz>



## Come Visit Your Toronto Zoo!

We are excited to invite school groups to return to the Zoo, with modified visit options to ensure safety. Please note that all guests visiting the Zoo will be required to socially distance and wear masks while indoors and at certain outdoor areas to ensure everyone's health and safety.

### Self-Guided Visit

Enjoy the flexibility of exploring the Zoo on your own with your students. Visits are available year-round and must be booked at least two weeks in advance. For details and additional self-guided tour resources for educators, visit [www.torontozoo.com/fieldtrip](http://www.torontozoo.com/fieldtrip). Contact [groupbooking@torontozoo.ca](mailto:groupbooking@torontozoo.ca) to organize your trip today!

### **Edu-Treks: Onsite Curriculum-linked Programs**

This school year, we are offering 1.5 hour guided-treks around the Zoo to bring the curriculum to life. Explore the Zoo, discover wild facts about your favourite animals, enjoy interactive activities, and enhance what you're learning about in the classroom. Knowledgeable Zoo Staff & Volunteers will lead your class trek. [Click here](#) to learn more.



## **Safety Comes First!**

*Public Health measures to reduce the risk of COVID-19 spread*

### **What the Zoo is doing:**

- Guests are required to **book timed-entry** tickets online before visiting to reduce crowding
- **One-way routes** have been established through some Zoo regions, with path markings and signage to encourage guests to follow public health guidelines
- Our Zoo team is following **enhanced safety measures** in all departments to ensure the health of our staff, volunteers, guests, and animals
- **Enhanced cleaning procedures** are in place for washrooms and throughout the Zoo site

### **COVID-19 Safety Measures**

- Practicing physical distancing: Please keep **6 ft** between your group and others
- **Washing your hands often for at least 20 seconds** with warm soapy water or use alcohol-based hand sanitizer
- Wearing **facial coverings**, are mandatory for persons 2 + years of age and who are medically capable, when inside buildings and pavilions. Facial coverings are strongly encouraged to be worn at all times to reduce COVID-19 spread
- Practicing **cough and sneeze etiquette** by using a tissue or using the bend in your arm



## **Can't Get Enough of our Amur Tiger Cub, Mila?**

Watch Our Giant Tiger Live Cam\* Hosted By ZOOLIFE! (10:00 am -5:00 pm daily)

[Click here](#) to view our Giant Tiger Live Cam, so you and your students can explore behind-the-scenes and observe the fascinating daily lives of [our gorillas](#), [giraffes](#), [our tiger](#) cub Mila, and many more!

Want camera control and enhanced zoom features? Sign up for **Zoolife!** 80% of proceeds directly fund our essential care and conservation efforts here at your Toronto Zoo.

### **Zoolife includes:**

- Daily live Q&A's with Nature Experts, Zookeepers, and Zoo staff
- Self-guided cameras to get you closer than ever to animal action
- 24/7 livestreaming so you can catch animal moments as they unfold



## Guess Who's Expecting? Our Critically Endangered Sumatran Orangutans!



For footage of Sumatran orangutans Sekali and Budi,

[click here](#)

The Toronto Zoo is proud to announce that our twenty-nine-year-old Sumatran orangutan Sekali is going to be a mother again! She and father-to-be Budi (a fifteen-year-old male Sumatran orangutan) were paired at the recommendation of the Association of Zoos and Aquariums (AZA) Species Survival Plan (SSP), and the Toronto Zoo is thrilled to further contribute to the future of this critically endangered species. Sekali has had one previous offspring (male Kembali, who still lives at the Toronto Zoo); Budi is a first-time father.

"This pregnancy is an important contribution to a genetically healthy Sumatran orangutan population," says Dolf DeJong, CEO, Toronto Zoo. "Sumatran orangutans are under increasing pressure due to habitat loss and the palm oil crisis. It is important to educate the public on their plight in the wild and do everything we can to prevent the threats they face and halt declining populations. The role of accredited zoos has never been more critical as the planet continues to lose thousands of species each year as a result of climate change, loss of habitat due to deforestation, mining, development, wildlife trafficking, and human/animal conflict. Your Toronto Zoo is proud to participate in the

AZA SSP program as well as the Saving Animals from Extinction (SAFE) Program specifically for orangutans. These programs, as well as our efforts through this conservation breeding program, will help ensure this incredible species continues to survive," he added.

"We're thrilled that Sekali and Budi are increasing the population of these critically endangered animals," said Beth Gilhespy, Executive Director of the Toronto Zoo Wildlife Conservancy. "The new orangutan baby's impending arrival adds urgency to the completion of the new outdoor orangutan habitat, scheduled for opening in Spring 2022. With the expanded space, our orangutans will have more choice in their daily activities: they can stay inside to enjoy their familiar space, go outside to experience a wider range of sights and sounds, and travel around on special overhead lines to spaces outside the new habitat. The new habitat will enrich the daily lives of the orangutans here at your Toronto Zoo, and inform guests in an impactful way about the issues facing these critically endangered apes, and what people can do each and every day to help their survival in the wild." Gilhespy added: "With this new spring arrival, now more than ever we encourage donations to the [Reaching New Heights for Orangutans](#) campaign, to secure all of the funds to complete the project."

Get involved and see what your school can do to help these magnificent creatures (refer to class connections below). Then make plans to visit the orangutan family next June in their new outdoor habitat! Call **416-392-5929** or email [groupbooking@torontozoo.ca](mailto:groupbooking@torontozoo.ca) to register your school group today!

## Happening Now at the Toronto Zoo

As we welcome guests back at the Zoo, check out these unique opportunities and events designed with safety in mind.

### **Terra Lumina is Back!** – *An enchanted night walk into a bright future*

After nightfall at the Toronto Zoo, you are invited travel a 1.5 km walking path into the year 2099, a time when humans and nature have learned to live in harmony. Let yourself be transported by vibrant lighting, multimedia effects, breathtaking video projections, and an original score to an enchanted world filled with possibility, and explore this bright and hopeful future to reveal the powerful secrets of tomorrow. Tickets now available: [click here](#).

### **Wild Encounters are back!**

Join us at the Toronto Zoo to get up-close (safely) with some of your favourite animals including our giraffes, kangaroos, and African penguins, and learn all about what it takes to care for our amazing animals! Check out our offerings [here](#).

## DID YOU KNOW?



# Coming Spring 2022

## NEW Outdoor Orangutan Habitat

Your Toronto Zoo has begun construction on an innovative new outdoor habitat for our orangutans. At three times the size of their current space, the new habitat will be designed to enrich our orangutans' daily lives, mimicking natural rainforest environments and featuring over 12,000 square feet of climbing structures, hills, pools, and streams. The habitat will include a research station where animal behavioural scientists can study these majestic species, and what we learn here will be shared globally to help restore the critically endangered Sumatran orangutan population. To learn more about this special project, [click here](#).

### CLASSROOM CONNECTIONS:

#### Primary

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Orangutans are mammals just like us, but how do they differ? Compare and contrast humans and orangutans in a chart and see what your class comes up with. How do we walk? What do they eat? What colour hair do they have? Do they have the same amount of teeth? See what intriguing questions your students come up with! Then have a little fun and encourage students to draw an orangutan following this [step by step tutorial](#)! Don't forget to colour them in and display them around the class!

#### Junior

- Habitats like rainforests play an important role in many animals' lives. What key features would you make sure to include if you were the one to design their new exhibit at the Zoo? Brainstorm in small groups and then discuss in class what features you think are important. Then visit the Zoo to see if all of your ideas made it into the exhibit! Provide feedback following your visit as to what you liked about the exhibit or what was missing by emailing [schools@torontozoo.ca](mailto:schools@torontozoo.ca).

#### Intermediate

- Why do people refer to the orangutan as an umbrella species for conservation? What is it that is threatening their rainforest habitat? Get involved and encourage students to become informed by researching about Palm Oil and how it needs to become a sustainable source of oil. Encourage students to shop for sustainable palm oil treats to hand out this fall and create informative posters to educate others in your school. Visit <https://www.torontozoo.com/tz/palmoil> for more information and [click here](#) to get a sustainable Palm oil shopping guide that you can share with students!

#### Secondary

- What is consumer buying power? How does it relate to the conservation of orangutans and other species of animals that call the rainforest home? Research and find out what shopping choices students can make in order to help conserve endangered species. Then have students create visual presentations / brochures / or an app to share with their classmates so that they are better informed too. Why stop there? Encourage students to share with friends and family, and local community members!

Toronto Zoo is accredited by CAZA (Canada's Accredited Zoos and Aquariums) and AZA (Association of Zoos and Aquariums). Look for CAZA's and AZA's logos whenever you visit a North American zoo or aquarium as your assurance that you are supporting a facility dedicated to providing excellent care for animals, a great experience for you, and a better future for all living things.

For more information, please visit [caza.ca](http://caza.ca) or [aza.org](http://aza.org).

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**Working together we can create a healthy environment for animals, plants, and people.**

***\*Events, admission rates, and hours are subject to change without notice.***

**For general Zoo information, please visit [torontozoo.com](http://torontozoo.com).**

We want to hear from you! Your feedback is important in helping us to continue delivering quality educational programs/experiences.  
Contact us at [schools@torontozoo.ca](mailto:schools@torontozoo.ca).