

CJ Sullivan Elementary

OUR SPECIAL PLACE AT SCHOOL

Community Partners

- Green Timber Forest Consultants
- Keweenaw Bay Indian Community - Fish Hatchery - Natural Resource Dept.
- Keweenaw Land Trust
- Plum Creek Timber
- USDA Ottawa National Forest
- Village of L'Anse

"The LSSI project has had a very positive impact on students, school, and community. Our students loved the trail and loved being outside, asked questions and wanted to know more. They talked about places they never knew about before, and about bringing their families there. For our school, it unified us. We all had a common theme and students knew that all grade levels were working on the trail, making it so the community can use it. For our community, it invited them to our school more often both physically and mentally. Parents, grandparents, and community organizations all helped us. We had articles in the newspaper that showed our students working with community members, helping to improve their community."

-- CJ Sullivan Teacher



Student Learning Outcomes

First Grade - Weather Station will monitor and record three-season data, creating signs to share with community members. Students will study animal needs, the importance of the sun in plant growth, and they will conduct a frog sampling.

Second Grade - Plant Needs Station to identify plants, their needs, and life cycles. Water flow, properties of water, how rain collects and identification of Lake Superior will also be studied.

Third Grade - Materials from the Earth Station signs will inform people about different trees, identifying them using plant parts. Linden Creek's spring and fall water flow (speed) will be monitored. Students will study foresters' jobs.



Fourth Grade - Animal Identification Station signs will focus upon local forest animals, identifying them by habitat and tracks. A wetland study at Lightfoot Bay and the Keweenaw Bay Indian Fish Hatchery will allow students to take a position regarding public land ownership versus private property. Students will later place and maintain environmentally print friendly litter collection bins.

Fifth Grade - Biodiversity Station focuses upon how humans can protect or enhance the diversity in this special place. Changes in diversity over time will be measured at the school forest, and its diversity will be compared to a Jack Pine forest in the Ottawa National Forest.

As a result of this project, more classes are making use of the school forest.

Dreaming a Trail! Something for everyone.

CJ Sullivan Elementary students plan to expand their outdoor classroom to include observation stations, benches, and interpretive signs. The LSSI team envisions the creation of an all-season trail in the L'Anse School forest. This will be a special place where students and residents are able to come together year-round to recreate and learn, exercising both mind and body while protecting the Lake Superior watershed.

**CJ Sullivan Elementary
2008 - 09**

School Year Team:

- 259 Students, K-5
- 6 Teachers
- 13 Classrooms





*Lightfoot Bay...a special place,
a community treasure.*

Comparing ecosystems while Conducting stewardship projects



Baraga Plains (Jack Pine Forest) – Grades 2, 3, and 5 students conduct plant and animal plot studies.

Lightfoot Bay (Great Lakes Coastal Wetlands) – Grade 1 students conduct frog sampling.
Grade 4 students conduct a wetland survey.

Plum Creek Timber (Hardwood forest) –Grade 2 students identify proper forest management, learning about protecting water quality and the path water takes in a forest.
Careers in forestry are explored.
Grade 3 students identify trees and plant seedlings.

2008-2009 School Year Project Timeline

February 2008—September 2008
Teachers snowshoe school forest, brainstorm possibilities, write grant, meet with forestry consultant, map and flag trail, & develop project plan for school year.

1st - Observed nature trail plant & animals, Lightfoot Bay wetlands
2nd - Nature journaling
3rd - Tree ID & study of forester's job



5th - Snowshoes species winter adaptation study

2nd -Nature journals, logging operation and wetland study
5th -Linden Creek macroinvertebrate study

May 2008 June July August September October November December January February March April May 2009

All grades—Cleared trail
2nd - Nature journaling
4th -Lightfoot Bay study wetland diversity and pros and cons of privately owned land
5th -Biodiversity plot studies at Ottawa & school forests



1st - Visited Lightfoot Bay wetlands, Presented to the Village Council asking to remove garbage



1st -Observed weather
4th - KBIC Fish Hatchery to observe fish habitats and learn why KBIC stocks fish



CJ Sullivan Elementary-October 2009