



# CLK Elementary School

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## a year of grants



**CLK Elementary**  
2011 - 2012  
LSSI Team:

- 680 Students
- 10 Teachers
- Grades K - 5

### Snowshoe Extravaganza!

Thanks to a **MEEMIC Foundation** grant, CLK's Kindergarten received an early Christmas package: a class set of 25 student snowshoes with two adult pairs! MEEMIC recognized the potential for diverse learning opportunities combined with the health benefits of getting young children outdoors. All Kindergarteners will use snowshoes for integrated lessons including current and historic uses of snowshoes by people today, Native Americans, and European settlers. This project was made possible in part with help from volunteer, Casey Strom.

### Outdoor Learning at CLK

CLK Elementary has once again teamed up with **LSSI (Lake Superior Stewardship Initiative)**. LSSI seeks to prepare students to become knowledgeable citizens who are engaged in activities that enhance their school, community, and the Lake Superior watershed. From the CLK Heritage Garden, to the Calumet Township Lions Park, CLK's focus this year will be providing outdoor learning opportunities in every season. Studies show outdoor education improves performance, students' motivation to learn, and their overall physical and mental health. CLK's LSSI project also supports place-based education, enhancing appreciation for the natural world, community partnerships, and engaging youth as citizens, creating life-long stewards of the Lake Superior watershed.

The LSSI team has planned improvements for the CLK Heritage Garden, including a hoop house (green house), thanks to a grant from the **Western UP Health Department**.

To better use the outdoor learning environment, the team will create three outdoor activities per grade level based upon GLCEs (grade level content expectations). Teacher backpacks will be outfitted with all materials needed for each outdoor lesson, including activity supplies, books, and assessments. At least one lesson per grade level will be carried out at the Calumet Township Lions Park.

As part of their stewardship outreach, students will oversee construction of dog waste stations, a sensory garden, and will provide *Leave No Trace* signage for visitors at the Calumet Township Lions Park.

### Learn to Adapt!

Funded by a **Target Field Trip** grant, all 4th graders will explore ecosystems, adaptations, and invasive species, applying that knowledge in real world situations within our community. A field trip to the Keweenaw Bay Indian Community Fish Hatchery and greenhouse will provide information about commercial fishing and native plants. Students will also visit the Hanka Homestead to compare today's farming techniques with those from the early 1900s. Students will investigate traditional foods and crops, invasive and native species, and adaptations of plants and animals. The impact of invasive species on our environment now and in the future will also be examined. As students learn more about natural resources and local agricultural, they will begin to practice more sustainable and healthier lifestyle choices.



Thank you to  
our funders!



# LSSI + Service Learning =



# CLK Elementary!



**Butterfly Garden - 2nd Grade** Combining teamwork with math and science lessons, students will plan and design a butterfly garden at school, bringing beauty to the campus and creating additional outdoor learning spaces. A variety of native perennial and annual flowers, grasses and other plants plus rocks, benches, several observation areas, and a low border fence separating the space from the sidewalk will be provided in this garden designed to increase butterfly diversity. Students will study garden design and monarch butterfly migration through the winter and spring, and will start milkweed seeds in the classroom to plant later.



## Insect Explorer Kits - 5th Grade

Using grab-and-go backpacks to collect and

observe insects on multiple field trips will enhance 5th graders' study of animal adaptations. Pollinating insects, their importance, and the native plants they prefer will become this study's focus as students plan and design a pollinator garden for CLK's Heritage Garden. Signs and artwork will present information about the garden to younger students and the community.



## Kindergarten Natural Playscape

Using natural materials and sweat equity from community members, this project focuses upon developing a natural playscape, which will double as an outdoor classroom area. Children will be able to challenge themselves physically while learning grade level concepts such as the needs of living things, description and identification of earth materials, and purposeful observation using their senses. Many physical education expectations will also be met. All CLK students will use the area for recreation and learning.



## One for You and One for Me! - 3rd Grade

In December, students decorated two cloth napkins with symbols of what they have learned this year in science and social studies - one to keep, and the other to be given to senior citizens at the **Little Brothers Friends of the Elderly's** holiday dinner. The reusable napkins, a sustainable alternative to disposable, were presented to Little Brothers guests during a 3rd grade program highlighting the needs of the elderly. After, a special waste-free chili lunch was served in the classrooms to students and guests from Little Brothers.

