

FOREST SCHOOL

Kindergarten



Fall

Me and My School Community

As we begin the school year we lay the foundation for the rest of the year, focusing on community and academic/social habits. The students explore many examples of community through stories, academic activities and interactive play. In the forest we study ecosystems through the lens of community. The students work together to create a collective vision of what we hope for the rest of the school year and explore what kinds of actions might help us reach our goal through writing, drawing and peer discourse. The kindergarteners discuss and write about their role in the classroom community and how we can each add our strengths to the group.

Winter

Families Are Communities

During winter term we continue our study of community by studying how families are a type of community. Questions like “who is in our family?”, “what are our roles in our family?”, and “what makes our families special?” drive this investigation. We incorporate this study into our academic lessons as well as social emotional and diversity lessons. Students deepen their writing practice through drawing, labeling and phonics as they write about their families and celebrate the family diversity that makes our community stronger. In the forest we explore various animal families and consider how we can treat the forest and all its non human inhabitants like they are part of our family.

Spring

Animal Survival and Wilderness Skills

As the winter season comes to a close we think about wilderness survival and look to our animal community for inspiration. Using questions such as “what do we need to survive?” we look to nature as a resource to meet these needs. With the help of nonfiction texts and nature observation we study animals that migrate, hibernate and those that do neither. The students then dive into a case study about beavers, where they demonstrate their understanding through building, writing and a small group work. We end the school year by reflecting on our goals, looking forward to the future and celebrating our class community and all we have accomplished together.

**All requiring academic skills in math, science, and literacy.*