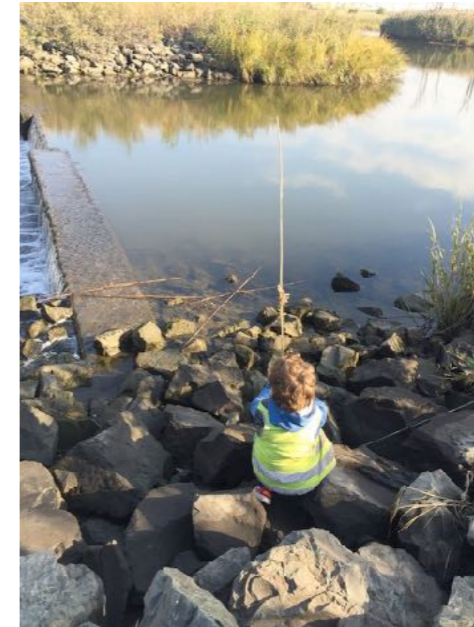




The Scandinavian School of Jersey City

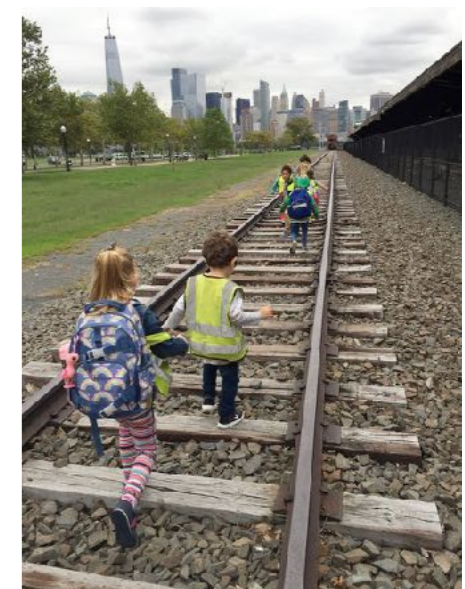
Forest Kindergarten 2018-2019



Founded in 2017, the Forest Kindergarten at SSJC seeks to integrate play and place-based learning with traditional nature programming. Set in an urban, multicultural context, children and teachers spend three days each week off-site in our 'community' classroom, which may include visiting local parks, gardens, historic sites, art galleries and professional artists' workshops and studios. Our remaining days are spent at the school's main campus, working in the classroom, atelier, kitchen and backyard to integrate and expand upon our research, findings and interests from the field.



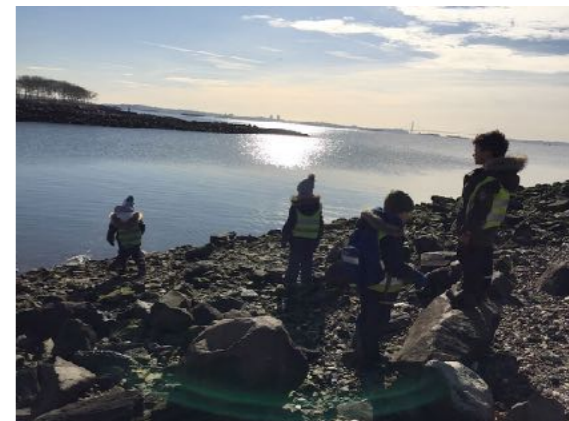
Our curriculum is based on the image of the child as creative, capable and inquisitive, where children are placed at the center of curriculum negotiations. We believe children learn best when their interests are acknowledged as worthy of investigation and that through groups, large and small, children learn through sharing, discussing, questioning, reflecting and engaging with their peers.



Liberty State, Caven Point Beach & Lincoln Park, Fall 2018

School Mission Statement:

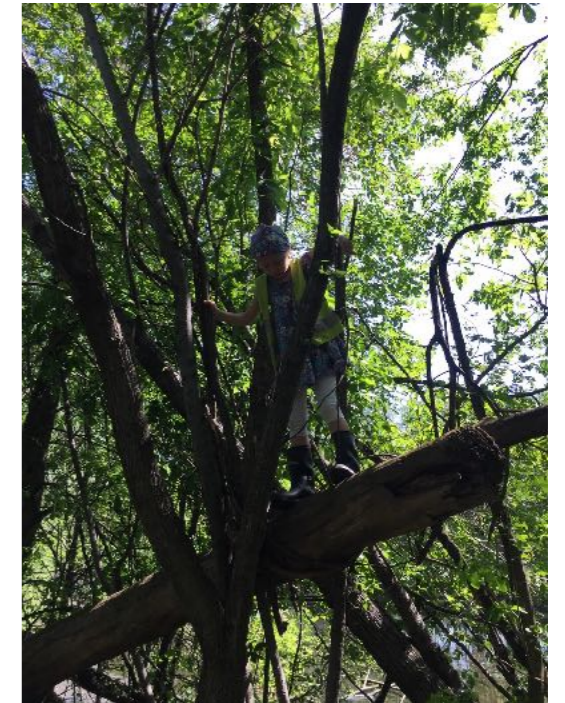
"At SSJC, we aim to inspire our children to deeply connect with themselves and one another, giving them the tools they need to be independent, democratic, wholesome and empathetic citizens of the world."



Liberty State & Lincoln Park, Winter 2018-19

In the forest program, we empower children through a sense of trust and responsibility. They have time and space to play and to express themselves freely. As we foster a love and connection to the environment and nature through outdoor learning, our children become grounded in themselves and in the places that they live and learn.





Liberty State, Lincoln Park, Hoboken Pier C, Meadowlands, Spring 2019

The program provides an opportunity to engage the senses in many ways to inspire deep and meaningful learning.

Through small group explorations, observations of natural spaces and purposeful play with natural materials, children gain and practice skills that guide them in working as a part of the community. When engaged, participating and being valued in community, the connection to self, others and the world around can grow, laying a foundation for life-long learning, creativity, resilience, empathy, well-being and balance.

Considering our Community

Based on the school-wide umbrella theme and investigation of 'Transformation: Beyond Our Walls', we were asked to consider our community. We asked who, what and where our community was, as well as how we were a part of it and what we could do help. In our play and adventures, we found joy in taking on responsibilities and building a sense of trust and support in ourselves and with others through many different projects on campus and beyond throughout our city. We continued to explore who and what our community was, what we felt was important and what we could do to be involved. We considered our 'rights,' as well as our 'responsibilities,' and we enjoyed playing, exploring and working this out together.



Planting and Connecting with our City at the Brunswick Community Garden

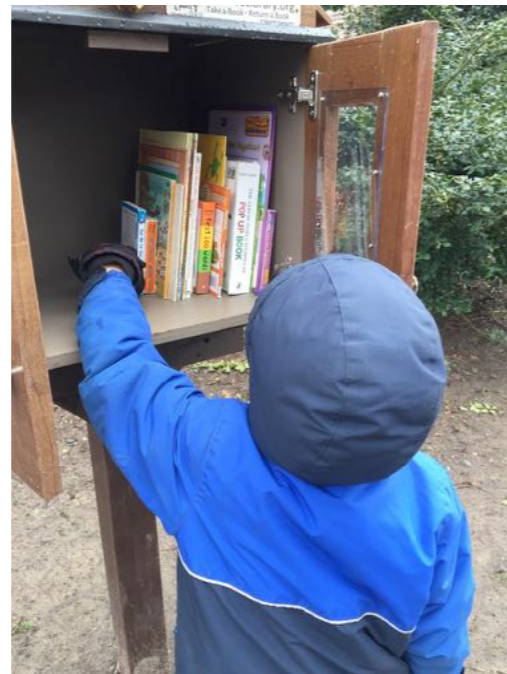
What is a 'community'?

A company, a group. A whole team! *Hugo, 5yrs.*

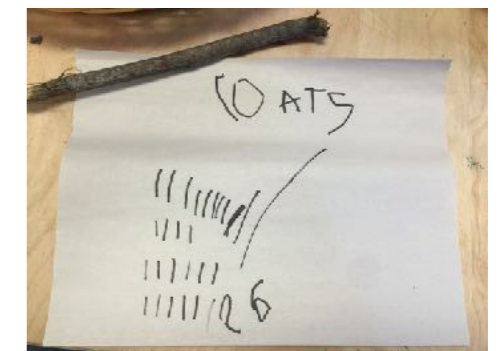
A lot of people. *Astrid, 4.6yrs.*

A community is a big group of people who all have the same job and all work together to do that. *Roman, 5.2yrs.*

Sometimes there are different jobs. *Hugo, 5 yrs.*



Adopting and Feeding the Little Free Library 'Owl' with books each Friday in Hamilton Park



Assisting with our School Community Donations to the 'NJ Cares' Fall Coat Drive



Visiting and Connecting with our Senior Neighbors through Crafts and Song



An interest in music and storytelling led the children to develop their voices as storytellers and performers, and they could often be seen sharing stories and songs on the bus and trails. This interest continued to emerge in class and atelier work, and it led us to explore expressing stories through puppetry, storyboards, recording sounds, drawing, dance, acting, building and more.

Inspired by our adventures in our local city 'forest', our interests converged with the creation of a class adaptation and live performance of *Jabuti: A Trickster Tale from the Amazon*, one of our favorite classroom stories. This included designing an original set, costumes and soundtrack, and it was performed for other children and classes in our school.

Trollskogen's *Jabuti*: Sets, Costumes and Live Performance



This year we stepped out 'beyond our classroom walls' to honor children's voices and rights through participating in several global endeavors within our local setting. Connecting with our community and with other neighborhood schools and families, we gathered in our city's meeting centers to share about our hopes, concerns and care for the rights and perspectives of all people and the environment.



Celebrating the 'Rights of the Child' & 'Universal Children's Day', November 20th



SSJC's Fridays for Future, a celebration of community and love for the Earth at City Hall, June 2019