

**Green Schoolyard Design After School Club with Rockdale Visual and performing Arts Magnet with Anupama Mann  
Assisted by Siddhartha Majumdar and Michael Zahn**

**Materials**

School Site Plan Drawing Printouts, Coloring pencils and pens, drawing paper, color paper, felt, wool, wood pieces, blocks, sticks etc., branches, twigs, leaves, cloth, seeds, yarn, string, glue, scissors, foam core board, card board, peg people, double sided tape, glue sticks, tape, wire, masking tape, staplers. For adults- cutters, cutting mat, scissors, miter saw.

The Earthwatch Kit is being donated to the School library and students can check it out or use in classrooms with their teachers to learn more about trees.

Tree selection for handouts was made from the Urban Forest Ecosystem Institute Website Tree database- <https://selectree.calpoly.edu/search-trees-by-characteristics>.

Slide show was made using photos available at <http://www.internationalschoolgrounds.org/videos/>.

The following books were used as reference books in the school library throughout the duration of the Afterschool club, available to students to learn more about green schoolyards. These included:

A Tree is Nice, Janice May Udry, Marc Simont  
A Tree on Your Street, Seymour Simon  
Asphalt to Ecosystems, Sharon Gamson Danks  
A Californian's Guide to the Trees Among Us, Matt Ritter  
How the Forest Grew, William Jaspersohn, Chuck Eckhart  
Skytree- Seeing Science through Art, Thomas Locker  
The Honey Hunter, Karthika Nair, Joelle Jolivet  
The Gardener, Sarah Stewart, David Small  
The Night Life of Trees, Bhajju Shyam, Durga Bai, Ram Singh Urveti  
The People who hugged trees, Deborah Lee Rose, Birgitta Saflund  
The Tremendous Tree Book, Barbara Brenner, May Garelick, Fred Brenner  
The Curious Garden, Peter Brown  
Tree Matters, Gangu Bai, Gita Wolf, V. Geetha  
Walking through the Hills, Bulbul Sharma

Video for Lessons 1 is available at

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TqtNFWeLxeE>

Video for Lessons 2 & 3 is available at

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OIL-Id52M70>

## Lesson Description:

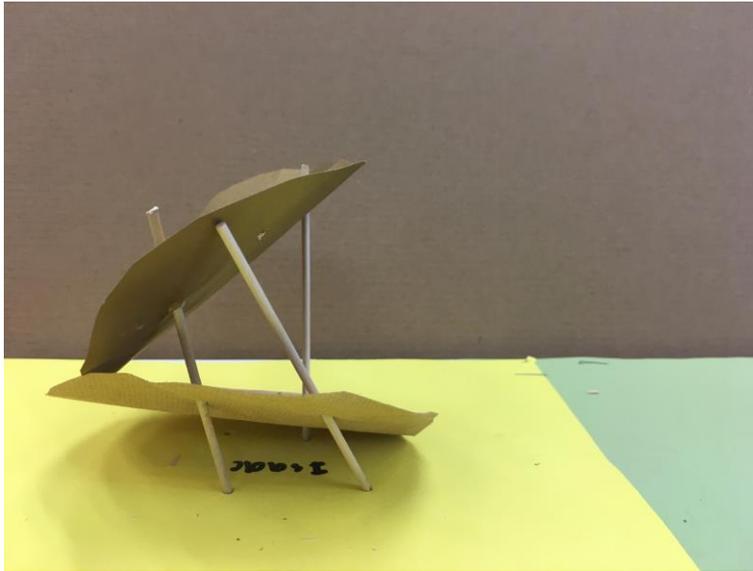
In Lesson 1 the school was divided up into five stations. Groups of students from first to fifth grades walked the site and listed what they liked about each station and what they wanted to change.



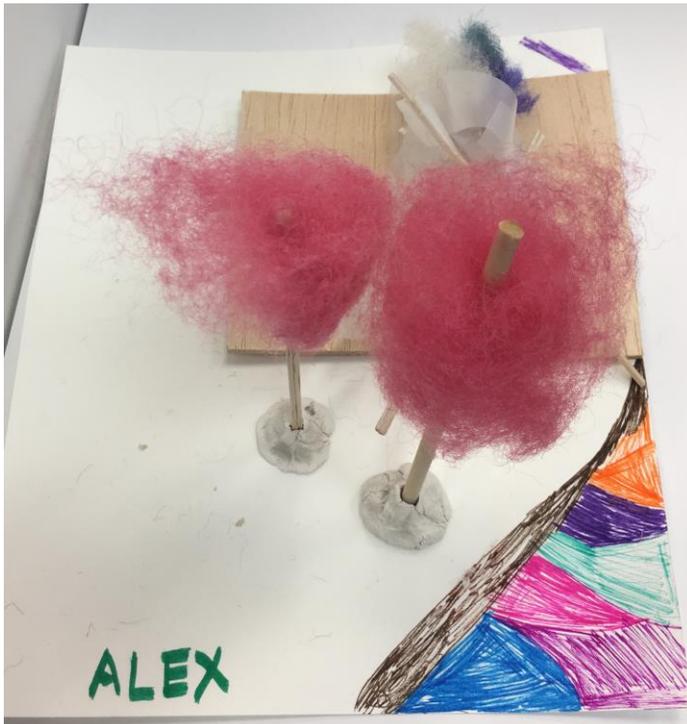
In Lesson 2, the students were shown a slide show of playgrounds from around the world. They were introduced to a more unkempt appearance of some of the grounds as trees and plants, natural and man-made materials came together to create a more visually and sensorially stimulating environment invoking curiosity and engagement. Students were then asked to keep in mind what they had seen and use that as well as their own experiences to draw a vision of their schoolyard.



In Lesson 3, the students had to make models of what they drew. The materials included, foam board, colored paper, yarn, twigs, leaves and seeds from trees, cloth, felt etc to turn the two-dimensional drawings they had made in lesson 2 into three dimensional models. The students made ponds and pools, sand, swings, slides, bridges, zip lines, tree houses, acorn play structures, tent like areas of refuge, tunnels, flower gardens, climbing trees, murals, totem poles, ponds, and patterns on the ground.



In Lesson 4, the children were given handouts describing and showing photographs of the various parts of California native trees. They were then asked to make models of a tree or trees to create a scene that could be incorporated in the Schoolyard Design.



In Lesson 5, the students helped assemble a scaled model of their school grounds. They then identified different areas on the model.



In Lesson 6, the children placed their own creations on the school model they had built in lesson 5. They then used peg people to create a narrative of how they would move through the newly created school yard where trees were almost as numerous as the students.

