

PART B: SUMMARY OF GREEN SCHOOL ACTIVITIES

This is the fifth year that Diamond View Elementary has applied for the Green School Program of Excellence. Our projects that were developed by the GREEN TEAM of teachers include school grounds beautification, recycling of several products, conservation of resources (electricity), improving our butterfly garden, recycling all paper, maintaining and adding to our vegetable garden, and adding to our orchard. In addition to grade level projects, several other groups, such as our Blazing Starz, on campus have contributed to Diamond View Elementary going GREEN! This year we had, not one, but two HUGE Green Celebrations!! One of our celebrations was integrating 'green' activities with our Literacy Week. We are also making big plans to celebrate Earth Day later this year during the first week in May (a little late due to testing).

The students, staff, business partners, and community work hard to recycle glue bottles, glue sticks, ink and toner, cell phones, plastic bottles, all types of paper, and drink pouches. Parents, business partners, and other members of the community drop-off ink, toner, cell phones, and shoes for the various recycling programs. We expanded the number of recycling boxes for collecting items throughout the school, including blue bins for all the recyclable drink containers used by students and staff. This year we also added a separate bin in the cafeteria for the collection of Capri Sun and Honest Kids pouches. Students and teachers in the Recycling Club manage the collection and recycling of these items.

Additionally, school beautification is another priority every year. Both primary and intermediate classes have continued to work on improving our campus and the butterfly garden. Kindergarten classes are planning to add local native plants to along the fourth grade wing of the school to change the appearance, attract native wildlife, and help clean the air pollution from the cars. Third grade classes continue to working on improving the butterfly garden.

Our school has also participated in numerous activities to raise awareness (and money, in some cases) about health and "green" and health issues such as, March of Dimes, Jump Rope for Heart, Walk for the Cure, Read, Run and Recycle, Wonderfit, Wonderful, Hold it for the Holidays, An Apple a Day, and The Great American Clean-Up.

The teachers are now covering science, social studies, and math standards using real-world applications through the expansion and maintenance of our vegetable garden. We used funds from the Healthy Kids, Healthy Community grant to install an irrigation system for the vegetable garden. With the garden up and running, we now get to enjoy the fruits and vegetables from our garden.

To sum it up, the GREEN TEAM has been working diligently to make these school-wide efforts a priority to all students and staff members. Our school's green efforts have the support of all of our stakeholders including administration, support staff, Parent Teacher Organization, teachers, students, the aftercare programs, the custodial team, and community business partners. Diamond View Elementary is very proud of our projects. This is our fifth year in making our school more sustainable. We hope to keep our Green School Recognition again this year.