

We are the Lions and you are going to hear us Roar with the ambition to become a Green School. Our decision to become a “Green” School was one that we had considering and making attempts at for a few years. This year with the help of Eagles Landing we decided to take the plunge. We discovered that our schools practices were already had some foundations at work. What we needed to do was to make them universal practices than just grade specific or department practices. So this is where we began our journey into the Green school program. Our mindset was to begin addressing everything first at the most basic level and what needed to be changed in our first year. We decided on a multidisciplinary, multi grade level approach as to where we could improve and how we could go about making these changes happen. Our school has many outdoor learning areas that we have put plans in place to and habitat restoration projects. Within the campus we have planned and started construction of raised bed gardens, in-bed gardens, and hydroponic strawberry gardens. Along with our school gardens many projects designed to improve the habitat and surrounding areas are included within the classroom and on the grounds. Our Administration’s consistent encouragement and enthusiasm to include time outside is a key component to our expansion as a Green School. Our Principal has incorporated benches to allow for seating in all outdoor areas and for an encouraged sense of environmental awareness. Within the concept of school sustainability we are continuing to grow and bring awareness within the school to allow for education on sustainability within our expansion and programming for green education. We have increased recycling created signage to remind of energy and water conservation. We encourage participation in Health related walks and activities allowing for a health component as well as community outreach tied in. This year we have added green fundraising through our adopted make your mark not your footprint. Curriculum integration within our school is expanding greatly and we are enjoying trying new and different things to expand our ability to integrate to more than just the science department. We have submitted to attempt to add a Botany course as well within our curriculum. Whether it be repurposing pallets from the trash or building fully functioning water towers from completely recycled materials we are trying to expand the mindset of not only our teachers, staff and students, but the community as a whole. Our staff and teachers incorporate a great deal of their environmental knowledge into their everyday lessons and hands on activities. We are instilling in our students the view that things that might otherwise be considered trash or garbage, can be utilized in a totally different way. We repurpose them and create amazing things including a raised bed garden built completely out of recycled pallets. We have been fortunate to work with many community members in efforts to promote the school culture and philosophy of expanding research and educating our students in so many ways. Some of our greatest accomplishments in our school have been in the realm of environmental advancements such as our newest endeavor in a collaborative effort between engineering and science to create a solar powered hydroponic garden. We hope that our student’s knowledge and mindset of going green will continue to grow like our gardens within the culture of Green Schools. We trust in our enthusiasm and know that we are headed in the right direction to make change. As Gertrude Jekyll once wrote “A garden is a grand teacher. It teaches patience and careful watchfulness; it teaches industry and thrift; above all it teaches entire trust”.